

# THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

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## ECCLIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

### MARCHING BACKWARDS TO THE TUNE OF LIBERALISM.

So! The *Times* has begun to laugh at the prudery of those Dissenters who hesitate to fling themselves into the extended arms of the Committee of Council on Education! Master Slender bashfully declining the invitations of Mistress Anne Page, is the aptest type which the *Times* can discover of such superfluous disinterestedness. Provokingly stupid, is it not? in these zealots for an abstract principle, that a fair offer of participation in the plunder, does not at once remove their objection to commit "flat burglary." The ninnies! what makes them so nice? What, on earth, can they detect in the Lansdowne Minutes to stir their alarm? The physis, says the *Times*, is not physic—but sugar—sweet, wholesome sugar. Trust not your eye-sight! Discredit your sense of smell! Believe not the report of your deceiving palate! Renounce your honesty, wit, judgment, experience—renounce everything that you can properly call your own, poor victims of a morbid imagination, and rely upon—rely wholly upon—that unchangeable representative of fixed principles, the *Times*, and that most sincere and candid friend of Dissent, Mr. Kay Shuttleworth. "These be thy gods, O Israel!" Ridiculous affectation must that be which shrinks from offering upon such an altar its reason and its manhood!

"Well! To it, again!" we are moved to say with Prince Hal, and when you have laughed yourself fairly out of breath, condescend to give a plain answer to a few plain questions. What, in the name of common sense, will be the certain practical result of these Lansdowne Minutes? Will they, or will they not, create a ramified system of patronage, which, starting from the Committee of Council, radiated by Inspectors, transmitted to parochial schoolmasters, branching off to Stipendiary Monitors and Apprentices, diffused amongst expectant scholars, and, through them, reaching fond and yearning parents, will give to the Executive of the day an influence in every village of the empire, such as no Government can safely be permitted to wield? Will this new organization of patronage, thus nominally in the hands of the State, balance the power already in the hands of the clergy, or become a clear addition to it?—place all future cabinets at greater advantage in resisting the enormous pressure of ecclesiasticism, or augment their difficulties?—be a weapon of defence in the hands of an enlightened Ministry, impeded by the Church, or a weapon of offence in the hands of an angry Church, against a Ministry bold enough to propose wise and well-considered measures of reform? Is it, or is it not, desirable to have the young mind of this vast empire cast in the narrow mould of priestly dogmatism, and stunted down to the limits of growth prescribed by semi-monastic authority? Has Government, whether directly or indirectly, by ecclesiastics, usually tended to develop a nation's virtues and resources, to refine its taste, to expand its intellect, to purify its morals, to bless its destiny? And, with all the lessons we have imbibed from history and observation fresh in our minds, is it so very becoming, so undeniably wise, so gloriously patriotic, to lay at the feet of the clergy predominant educational influence, and patronage to this dangerous extent, as that the smallest reluctance to promote this elevation of ecclesiasticism above the civil power, may reasonably excite the mirth of "the leading journal of Europe"? Let the *Times* tell us thus much, and then laugh on!

The education of the people! Aye! unquestionably it is an object right worthy of pursuit, and, if needs be, of sacrifice, if by education be meant that process of training by which mind may be encouraged to put forth its inherent powers, and exercise them upon the abounding materials of human knowledge—the awakening of the intellect from slumber, the cultivation of healthy moral sentiments, and the careful

direction of innate aspirations after spiritual truth and beauty—the assiduous formation of habits of free inquiry, of impartial investigation, of truthful judgment, of manly profession—the ripening, in a word, into proportionate and harmonious development of the mental and moral faculties of our common nature, so as to leave intelligence, self-respect, power of conscience, reverence for religion, where otherwise ignorance, brutality, self-abandonment, and stupid infidelity would have reigned supreme. But no man in his senses expects this kind of education to be patronized by the State clergy. A smattering of everyday knowledge, associated with a blind belief in ecclesiastical dogmas—just enough life in the intellect to render it the willing recipient of Church instructions—a veneration for the priesthood which shall overlay all private judgment—curiosity tethered within prescribed limits by clerical jealousy—inquiry led on to foregone conclusions, forbidden to look aside either to the right hand or the left—passive submission enforced by frequent references to the worldly advantages it will secure—forms of religion without their life—habits of subserviency based upon no moral considerations which would bear examination—self-distrust produced by trampling underfoot the first appearances of resolute independence—this is the education which priestism will vouchsafe to the poor. A population scantily furnished with the elements of knowledge, and crammed with creeds and catechism—an army of unfledged polemics, wielding one-sided information against conscientious inquirers of every sect—men and women whose souls are pawned to the clergy, and who have never been allowed to regard themselves as free and independent members of God's family—timid, cringing, superstitious, fluttering things, worthy only of hewing wood and drawing water for their betters, the aristocracy—this is what may be anticipated as the ultimate practical result of national education under the management of the clergy.

We call upon the *Times*, and upon the several provincial journals which in this matter sympathize with the *Times*—we call upon them in the name of manly patriotism, to pause and look around them. What is that corporate body to whose plastic influence they consent to commit the formation of popular opinions, habits, modes of thought, and principles of conduct, in these realms? What is their history, but the record of one long and continuous struggle against civil, intellectual, and religious progress? When did they ever head a movement towards enlightened change? Their education, their position, their preposterous claims, their virtual irresponsibility—all that they have, all that they are, all that they vain would be—all disposes them to side with the absolute against the free, with the fixed against the progressive, with present twilight against advancing day. Why, it is scarcely two years ago, that these men evinced so easy a susceptibility to the charms of monkish fripperies, and so fond an attachment to the slavish puerilities of by-gone ages, that nothing but the stern determination of the laity, braced, as it was, by daily exhortations from the *Times*, saved the national church from leading back our population to the very gates of Rome. The body remains unaltered. The *esprit de corps* which animates them is ever the same. To encroach upon individual right—to exalt their own official pretensions—to denounce all mental expansion which they cannot control—to instil into the people a sense of entire dependence upon themselves—to preclude all exercise of thought beyond a range which they have themselves marked out—to frown upon all self-attempted efforts at education—Athenæums, mechanics' institutes, classes for mutual instruction, reading-rooms, libraries, and lectures—these are the practices of the State clergy with which men of all classes, and in every town, have become familiar. And now, it is just to these men, with these qualifications, that you are clamouring to resign succeeding generations of British childhood, under the pretence of securing for them an efficient education. These, until lately, deadly foes of increased knowledge for the labouring classes, these patrons of game-law iniquities, these dispensers of rural justice, these chairmen of boards of poor-law guardians, hating reform, sympathizing with prerogative, advocating, and themselves enjoying, monopoly—these are to take our ignorant poor under special training, preside over the distribution amongst them of glittering rewards, and back their own self-derived authority by becoming, to tens of thousands in the dawn of life, the channels of State favours and emoluments.

Whether or not it is desirable to establish a process by which successive crusts of ecclesiasticism may be

deposited upon the surface of English society, impeding the natural growth and exercise of thought, checking inherent tendencies to expansion, and suppressing wholesome intellectual excretions—or wise, to substitute for the present rude but independent and rapidly improving condition of the masses, one which will chain them to the car of priestism, command their approving shouts for whatever is sanctioned by the hierarchy, and compel them, white-livered, to regard with slavish awe every prohibition which Church tyranny may deem necessary to Church aggrandisement—or patriotic, to administer to the people, by the hands of clerical servitors of the aristocracy, early doses of instruction mingled with a view to shrivel up and destroy the very desire for social, civil, and religious freedom—it is for those journalists who rejoice over the Lansdowne Minutes to make evident. Let them set about their humiliating task, if they will, and, to the disgust of themselves and their readers, pander to the increasing arrogance of ecclesiastical exclusiveness! Theirs will be, at no distant period, the boast, that the destinies of this empire, and the character and fortunes of this people, which our forefathers, at an infinite cost of labour, privation, suffering, and blood, wrested from the gripe of ambitious priests, and handed down to us as a free inheritance, have been jauntily resigned once more, without a struggle, to the self-same body of usurpers. Aye! we commend them to their noble vocation, and leave them. We decline, in fanatical prostration before a new and dazzling divinity, taking part in undoing what the heroism of the sixteenth century but partially accomplished. Laugh at our devotion to an abstract idea! Sneer at our sectarian obstinacy! Continue to play off upon your blinded dupes all the dexterous but discreditable tricks of newspaper controversy! With shame that the offer should ever have been made—with profound mortification that *liberal* journalists can degrade themselves to accept it—and with indignation, burning as our nature will admit of, we refuse to put the necks of our countrymen under the heel of state-ecclesiasticism—we refuse to commit the fashioning of popular judgment and feeling to a body evermore averse to popular freedom and progress—and we refuse to combat the sophistry of those, who, well-knowing what must be the inevitable practical result of these Minutes of Council, labour to weave an excuse for consenting to poison the fountain-head of national self-reliance, independence, and liberty.

### THE ROYAL PROCLAMATION FOR A GENERAL FAST.

WHO drew up this document? From what century of our history comes the model upon which it is framed? It is worthy of the days of Charles the First. It might have been written by the pen of Archbishop Laud. Whither are the Whigs hastening? Do they mean, at the bidding of their new hierarchical allies, to ignore the Toleration Act? Or are they merely, for an occasion, and in deference to an absurd etiquette, dressing themselves up in the clothes of their great-great-grandfathers? What is the meaning of this sentence?—"And we do strictly charge and command, that the said public fast be reverently and devoutly observed by all our loving subjects in England and Ireland," (there is a separate proclamation for Scotland,) "as they tender the favour of Almighty God, and would avoid His wrath and indignation, and upon pain of such punishment as may be justly inflicted on all such as contemn and neglect the performance of so religious and necessary a duty."

Who, we beg to ask, committed to the Privy Council the dispensation of Divine vengeance? Who gave them authority to link together the observance of a fast appointed by themselves, and the enjoyment of favour from Almighty God? Are Royal Proclamations to be regarded as emanating from the Eternal Throne, that such indecent assumptions of power to deal out blessings and curses are unhesitatingly put forward? Are we living under a Theocracy, or under a lay Popedom? But this is not all. Her Majesty has been advised to threaten with civil punishment those who neglect a specified religious duty. Certainly, this is Church and State in pristine vigour. The Attorney-General is to frighten irreligious subjects into due humiliation before God; and, armed with an indictment, will essay to force a whole nation upon its knees in the attitude of devotion. Or should some exhibit a contumacious determination not to become religious at the bidding of the Privy Council, and on a day named by them, he is to visit them, we suppose, with pains and penalties, if he can get a jury to convict. Again we ask, Whither are



the Whigs tending? Englishmen are to be punished, are they, for the neglect of a particular religious duty? Under what obsolete statute, may we ask? Do the Whigs really mean what they have made her Majesty to utter? If so, 'tis time to look about us—for the same authority which can command religious observances in one instance may presently command it in others. If not, why load a proclamation, commencing with such awful solemnity, with a *brutum fulmen* known to be devoid of meaning? Such a document is a disgrace to the age.

But we have not yet done. The words immediately following are vaguely ominous—"And for the better and more orderly solemnizing of the same, we have given directions to the Most Reverend the Archbishops and the Right Reverend the Bishops of England and Ireland to compose a Form of Prayer, suitable to this occasion, to be used in all churches, chapels, and places of public worship, and to take care the same be timely dispersed through their respective dioceses." What! is this form to be used by Dissenters? or have they no "places of public worship"? How are they to understand the proclamation? It contains no restrictive phrase. *All*, without exception—all edifices which can come under the designation of church, chapel, or place of public worship—all are pointed out as places within which the said Form of Prayer is to be used. Now the document either means what it expresses or it does not. If it does—but no! such tyranny cannot be imagined. Even the Whigs could not contemplate the obtrusion upon Dissenters of an episcopal form of prayer. If it does not, what an equivocation, not to say falsehood, appears upon the face of a grave, nay! a religious State paper! As if there were no places of public worship beyond the pale of the Establishment!

Does it become an enlightened Government to perpetuate these odious absurdities? Is it wise, in the days of Victoria, to copy the style, and to repeat the assumptions, of times which smack of nothing so strongly as the divine right of kings, and the monstrous pretensions of the church—monstrous even to the extent of blasphemy? Why, if we were ever so disposed to observe the appointed fast, this proclamation would make us question our duty. When a State-paper by which temporal punishment is threatened by our civil rulers for the non-performance of a religious act, and divine wrath is denounced, employs terms in reference to both which are not even intended to be understood in their most obvious sense, we conclude our duty to be, not the obedience which would throw a tacit sanction over such impieties, but a recusancy which will assert for God the sole right to COMMAND religious observances, as also to punish the contempt or neglect of them.

#### THE CHURCH AND STATE DISCUSSION AT LIVERPOOL.

We extract the following letter from the *Liverpool Times*, of Tuesday last:—

TO THE REV. JOSEPH BAYLEE, A.M.

"He that is first in his own cause seemeth just, but his neighbour reveth and searcheth him."

Rev. Sir,—Are synagogues to be found in the Old Testament? In the late discussion Mr. Miall asserted they are not. You boldly maintained that they are. Nay, you treated Mr. Miall's assertion as a proof that Dissenters do not read the Old Testament, and you triumphantly replied to his assertion, by quoting these words:—"They have burned up all the synagogues of God in the land."—Psalm lxxiv. 8. To judge by the "vehement and prolonged applause" that followed the quotation, this was your great achievement during that night's debate.

How strange, if it should turn out that Mr. Miall was right on this point; yet so it was.

You are said to be a scholar, sir. Pray open your Hebrew Bible, and read the 74th Psalm in the original, and then tell the public whether you think synagogues are referred to in that Psalm or not. True, the word is in the English translation, but is that translation correct? Is it undisputed? A doubtful passage, you know, will not prove your point. In no other place are synagogues mentioned in the Old Testament, and if, in the original, this 74th Psalm does not refer to synagogues, then, after all, Mr. Miall was right in his assertion. Let us examine the question.

The Hebrew word in the 74th Psalm rendered "synagogues" occurs in the Old Testament more than two hundred times. In every instance but this it is translated by other words, such as "congregations," "feasts," "solemn days," "solemnities," "seasons," "assemblies," &c., &c. Were the translators wrong in the other 200 passages, and right only once in translating this word? If it really means "synagogues," how was it that its true meaning only flashed upon the translators in this 74th Psalm?

The Septuagint version, you know, was made by Jews. Did these ancient Jews imagine that the passage in question referred to the synagogues? Not they, indeed. They render the passage thus—"Let us cause the feasts of the Lord to cease from the land."

I am told you are a great linguist. If so, examine the old Syriac, Arabic, and Ethiopic versions, the Chaldee paraphrase of Onkelos, and the Vulgate Latin. Not one of these ancient versions supports our English translation of the verse. Will you seek refuge in modern translations? Alas! no synagogue can be found in the passage, either in the Latin of Castellio, the German of Luther, the French of De Sacy, the Spanish of Padre Scio, the Portuguese of Pereira, or the Italian of Diodati, or Martini. It is clear, therefore, that the meaning of the passage has been disputed, and that its reference to synagogues is, at least, doubtful.

Even your own Prayer Book translates the verse "Thus have they burned up all the houses of God in the land;" and before you can show that these houses of God were synagogues, you must prove that synagogues existed when the 74th Psalm was written. This you cannot do, as it is uncertain when that psalm was written.

You spoke somewhat slightly of German critics, or I should cite Hengstenberg, who says the passage evidently refers to the Temple!! But, probably, you will prefer a reference to English divines. Well, let us hear what they say on the subject.

The profoundly learned Dr. Kennicott says, respecting the

Hebrew word translated synagogue, "This word never signifies a 'synagogue.' Those assemblies were of later institution."—*Kennicott's Remarks*, p. 256.

The great commentator of your Church, the Rev. Thomas Scott, observes, "The word rendered 'synagogue' is in the fourth verse translated 'congregations.' It means, according to the context, either the stated seasons of assembly, the places in which the people met stately, or the congregations collected together at the solemn feasts, or the solemn feasts themselves. As it is doubtful whether synagogues, in the common sense of the word, had become general before the captivity, it is probable that the courts of the Temple, in which the people assembled, were intended, and that the passage might be rendered, 'They have burned God's places of assembling even to the ground.'"—*See Scott's Commentary on the passage*.

Dean Prideaux states, "That they had no synagogues before the Babylonish captivity is plain, not only from the silence which is of them in all the scriptures of the Old Testament, but also from several passages therein, which evidently prove there could be none in those days."—*Prideaux's Connexion*, vol. ii., p. 357.

Let me also refer you to a work entitled "The Synagogue and the Church, being an attempt to show that the Government, Ministers, and Services of the Church, were derived from those of the Synagogue; condensed from the original Latin work of Vitringa, by the Rev. J. L. Bernard, A.M., Curate of St. Mary's, Donnybrook; 1842." This work, you see, supports your theory, viz., that we should regard the synagogue, and not the temple, as the model of the Christian Church. [By the way, you forgot to tell us in what part of the synagogue the altar and the throne were placed.] In this work, supporting your own theory, you will find the following passage (the italics are mine):—"We have examined the arguments adduced for the existence of synagogues in the time of Moses, and have seen that they fail—that there could be nothing similar to the synagogue in this period. . . . The duties of the priests are altogether confined to the tabernacle; and the Levites, instead of being distributed amongst the people, and located in the different cities and villages for the purpose of ministering in the various congregations, are ordered to dwell by themselves in forty-eight cities. . . . Their duties, too, have all reference to the tabernacle, the priests, and the sacrifices, without as much as an incidental mention of duties similar to those to be fulfilled in the synagogue," pp. 30, 31. The writer proceeds to show that the synagogue did not exist in the times of the Kings, and then quotes the passage from the 74th Psalm, which passage, Mr. Bernard says—"If the authorized version be correct, is an answer to all his arguments; but," he adds, "on looking to the original, we shall find that the words rendered 'synagogues of God,' signify literally the places of meeting God (that is, the places where Jehovah promised to meet his people), and thus, strictly speaking, are applicable only to the temple. The Hebrew noun being in the plural number does not interfere with this interpretation, for two plural nouns are used to designate the temple in this very Psalm, and one of them the noun under consideration." The writer proceeds—"We must look, then, to the origin of the synagogues, to the times subsequent to the Babylonish captivity."

—p. 39.

Thus, you see, the Septuagint and the Vulgate, the Chaldee, Syriac, Arabic, and Ethiopic, besides modern translations in Latin, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian are against you. Hengstenberg, Kennicott, Scott, Prideaux, and Vitringa, are all against you. But enough of extracts.

Your attempt to prove that the synagogue is to be found in the Old Testament reminds me of a sailor who stoutly maintained that the compass was not a modern invention, but was mentioned in the New Testament. When this was disputed, Jack settled the question by giving chapter and verse for it,—"And from thence we fetched a compass, and came to Rhegium," Acts xxviii. 13. The Old Testament synagogue and the New Testament compass are very much alike; but while poor Jack's ignorance provokes a smile, yours excites our amazement.

It would be uncharitable to suppose that you knew it was a doubtful matter whether synagogues were intended in that psalm or not. This would be to defend your scholarship at the expense of your honesty. I, at least, will not charge you with snatching at applause by using a passage, the meaning of which you knew was so generally disputed. You could not stoop so low as that. Your friends, therefore, can only conclude that you thought the Psalmist really meant to refer to the synagogues;—that this unfortunate quotation was not a trick of yours; that it was simply your ignorance that gained you such vehement applause.

All this may be mortifying to your admirers. They will, perhaps, be more cautious how they applaud you again. But you, sir, may learn a valuable lesson from it. The next time you are tempted to rebuke the ignorance of an opponent, beware lest you expose your own. Remember the Synagogues! I am, rev. sir, yours respectfully,

JOHN SEARCH.

CHURCH-RATES, LYNN, NORFOLK.—Another of those disgraceful scenes which must fill every right-minded man with disgust against the State-church, viz., seizure for church-rates, took place here last Monday. In this instance the persons seized upon were two widows, and the only son of a widow. The first an honourable member of the Society of "Friends;" the second a Baptist, and widow of a Baptist deacon, of more than thirty years standing; and the third, a respectable tradesman whose character and integrity, and efforts to promote the cause of truth and righteousness, are well known and highly approved of—in fact, no one man in Lynn is doing more to benefit his fellow-men in the town and neighbourhood. From Mrs. Burlingham, the "Friend," three silver watches were taken; from Mrs. Keed, one mahogany sofa (horse-hair seat, nearly new,) and five hats; and from Mr. John Keed, six mahogany chairs, and two elbows, two mahogany tables, and five hats. In all these cases the goods seized were more than double the amount of the rate. The peculiar season at which this seizure has been made, will doubtless add to the rectitude of the deed in the estimation of those zealous Pharisees who are obeying the invitation given in a placard which is plentifully distributed in the town, announcing special services morning and evening of each day during the holy "season of Lent." Perhaps it would be well if the Rev. Divines officiating at those services would deliver some discourses on the following texts:—Exodus xv. 9; Psalm xciv. 6, 7, xciv. 20; Isaiah i. 14, 16, iii. 15; Matt. vii. 12; Romans ii. 21.—*From a Correspondent*.

VOLUNTARY CHURCH LECTURES, GLASGOW.—We are glad to find that our voluntary friends are bestirring themselves. When offensive Government educational

schemes are propounded, and dark hints thrown out as to the endowment of Popery, it is time to raise up a testimony against them, and proclaim to the world what Dissent really is. The lectures advertised in another column, which are to be delivered on Sabbath evenings, we sincerely trust will have the effect of instructing not a few as to the only ground upon which they can effectually oppose any attempts that may be made to endow Popery, or obnoxious schemes of Government education insidiously thrust upon us. The first lecture is to be delivered to-morrow (Sunday) evening, in Greyfriars Church (Rev. Dr. King's), by the Rev. Dr. Wardlaw, when, it is to be hoped, the friends of Dissent will give a numerous attendance, and contribute liberally towards the funds of this association.—*Glasgow Times*. [The other lecturers will consist of the following ministers:—Dr. Eadie, Dr. M'Farlane, Dr. J. Taylor, and Messrs. W. Anderson, A. Thomson, A. Duncan, G. S. Ingram, G. Jeffrey, and D. Russell. Collections are to be made after each lecture.]

NONCONFORMIST LECTURE.—We understand that a lecture will be delivered on Friday next, at the Baptist Chapel, in East-street, Southampton, by the Rev. A. M'Laren, on "The Wisdom of Boldness, or the Present Duty of Dissenters." We have no doubt that the interest of the subject, bearing as it does on the Government Education Scheme, now agitating the country, and the well-known talent of the lecturer, will ensure a full attendance.—*Hants Independent*.

The *Catholic Almanack* for 1847 says that the number of convents in the United States is 834, being an accession of 98 in one year.

We hear that difficulties have arisen at Rome respecting the re-ordination of the Rev. J. H. Newman, and that they are of such a nature as are not likely to be overcome.—*Church and State Gazette*.

The *Church of England Journal* has freely exposed church abuses in Wales. A bishop is annoyed, and sends the following courteous note:—"The Bishop of Bangor requests that no more numbers of a newspaper called the *Church of England Journal* may be sent to him." The paper was sent gratuitously.

CHURCH-RATES.—Yesterday se'night, a meeting was held in the parish church of Gildersome, for the purpose of imposing a church-rate of one penny in the pound. The rate-payers decided against granting the rate; but we presume, after the recent decision of Lord Denman, the refusal will amount just to—nothing. The churchwardens, according to his lordship's dictum, can make a rate, notwithstanding the conscientious and very proper refusal of the parishioners thus to tax themselves.—*Leeds Times*.

CHURCH-RATES AT CHELTENHAM.—Deputations have been appointed from several of the Dissenting congregations of Cheltenham, to adopt all lawful means for preventing the imposition and collection of church-rates in Cheltenham. The delegates have taken the name of "The Committee of the Cheltenham Christian Union of Protestant Dissenters for the Protection of Religious Liberty."—*Cheltenham Free Press*.

ANTI-STATE-CHURCH MOVEMENT.—WYMONDHAM, NORFOLK.—On Monday evening last, a public meeting was held at the Independent Chapel, in this town, for the purpose of receiving a deputation from the Norfolk Religious Liberty Society. Mr. T. A. Wheeler, Baptist minister, and Messrs. J. H. Tillett and F. Pigg, attended, and explained the principles of the Society. There was a large, respectable, and most attentive audience, who seemed deeply impressed with the importance of this great movement, and anxious to do all in their power to promote its advancement. Mr. J. G. Pigg, the minister of the congregation, presided.

THE LECTURES AT NORWICH.—We are glad to learn that the admirable series of lectures which have just been delivered at Norwich under the auspices of the Religious Liberty Society of that town, have been reprinted from the *Norfolk News*, and published as a pamphlet, at a price unprecedentedly low. "The effect produced in this city" (we quote the preface) "has been most satisfactory; the asperity of opponents has been allayed; many sincere Churchmen have been conciliated; prejudices and misconceptions, to a great extent, removed; and the public generally induced to regard the movement with respectful attention."

PHONOTYPY.—A correspondent informs us, that "An interesting attempt to teach a class of unlettered adults to read, by means of the new system of Phonotypy, has lately been made by Benn Pitman, in connexion with the City of Westminster Temperance Society. The class consisted of about forty, thirty of whom were unable to read. After receiving fifteen hours' instruction, those members of the class who, previously to its commencement, could not read at all, read simple language with tolerable fluency. At the eighteenth lesson an examination took place, when the members of the class went through the elementary sounds and articulations of language, forming the phonetic alphabet, with remarkable precision."

DEATH OF COLONEL GORE LANGTON, M.P. FOR EAST SOMERSETSHIRE.—This distinguished member of the House of Commons expired on Sunday last, at his residence in Grosvenor-square, in the 88th year of his age, and after service as a legislator since the year 1816. This gentleman's name has been familiar in political circles owing to his determined opposition to the Corn-laws. Though one of the largest landed proprietors in the kingdom, he was the greatest enemy of protection, which he considered to be as detrimental to the cause of agriculture as to that of commerce.

THE RENTAL OF IRELAND.—A Parliamentary paper recently issued gives the aggregate net rental value of all Ireland, as assessed to the poor-rate, at £13,187,421 6s. 8d.

APPOINTMENTS.—Viscount Torrington is to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Ceylon; Mr. James Robert Mackintosh to be Lieutenant-Governor of St. Christopher, Mr. Charles Sharman Crawford and Mr. Dennis Phelan to be Assistant Poor-law Commissioners for Ireland. [Mr. Phelan is the gentleman who was so harshly dismissed by the Commissioners.]



## THE MIRROR OF PARLIAMENT.

## DRAINAGE IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

On Wednesday, the House of Commons went into Committee on the Drainage Bill, with a good deal of discussion before and after the Speaker left the chair. The principal point was raised by Sir JAMES GRAHAM; who suggested that the limit for the advance to each single proprietor should be £10,000 instead of £15,000: the largest landowners have, if not funds, credit to obtain them; and the advances would be most needed by the smaller owners and yeomen; but if the £15,000 limit were fixed, the whole of the £3,000,000 authorized by the bill might be absorbed by the larger properties before the stronger claims of the smaller proprietors were satisfied. Sir CHARLES WOOD promised to consider the suggestion. Lord G. BENTINCK incidentally mentioned that unless he was misinformed, the competition for the £8,000,000 loan the other day amounted more nearly to £80,000,000 than £8,000,000. The several clauses were adopted; the bill to be reported on Friday.

On Friday the report was received, when Sir G. GREY announced the determination of the Government to restrict the sums advanced to £10,000 instead of £15,000.

## MORTALITY IN IRELAND.

On Thursday, Lord GEORGE BENTINCK moved for returns intended to exhibit the increase in the number of deaths in Ireland; Mr. Smith O'Brien having stated, on a previous evening, that the Constabulary are in possession of information proving that 240,000 persons have already died of famine. Lord George suggested that the returns should be demanded from the clergy, Protestant and Roman Catholic.

Mr. LABOUCHERE showed that there could be no security whatever for the accuracy of the information so obtained; and he expressed his total disbelief of the assertion that the Constabulary have the information alleged.

Lord GEORGE BENTINCK would leave the subject to the exertions of Government: but, to prove that his statements were not without corroboration, he mentioned that the mortality in the workhouses this year has been ninefold what it was last year.

## IRISH PAUPERS AND LANDLORDS.

In the House of Lords, on Thursday, Lord BROUGHAM presented a petition from the corporation of Hull, lamenting the calamity which had befallen Ireland, and stating that they felt it to be a great hardship that they had to support the Irish poor, a great number of whom flocked into the town. They also prayed the Legislature to pass an effective poor-law.

On Friday Lord BROUGHAM presented a petition from Bradford, complaining of distress, which was greatly aggravated by the influx of Irish paupers, such paupers, according to their own statements, having been supplied with 2s. 6d. by their landlords, to enable them (the paupers) to reach England.

He had no opinion to offer upon the subject of this petition; but the more he reflected upon the present extraordinary state of things, the more he was impressed with alarm and misgiving. We were to send over £10,000,000 of our money to Ireland this year, and neither £10,000,000 nor £20,000,000 would do next year, when we had brought the people into the habit of being supported by us; and it would come to this, that our poor would be going over to Ireland to get supported out of a part of the English money which was pouring into that country ["Hear," and a laugh]. He had ascertained that 2s. 6d. a head had been paid to bring over Irish paupers into this country; 3,200 of them had landed in one day last week, many of whom asserted that 2s. 6d. a head had been paid to bring them over. Why, if this were the case, he would recommend the people of Blackburn, and the corporation of Hull, and other petitioners, to get together their 2s. 6d., and send over their poor in return to Ireland ["Hear, hear," and a laugh]. For the hundredth time he must warn the Government and Legislature against attempting to take upon themselves the impossible task of feeding the Irish people.

The Earl of DEVON did not believe there was a word of truth in the statement as to the 2s. 6d.

Lord BROUGHAM: My lords, I firmly believe it. I completely and entirely, and conscientiously believe it; and, my lords—

The Earl of DEVON: Does the noble lord rise to reply or explain?

Lord BROUGHAM (with great emphasis): Whichever I please.

The Earl of DEVON: The noble lord has a right to explain, but he has no right to speak in reply. If he persists, I shall take the sense of the House upon it.

Lord BROUGHAM: And so shall I. I do persist, and I shall take the sense of the House upon it.

The Earl of DEVON (advancing to the ministerial side of the table): My lords, I stand upon your orders! [confusion]. I rise to order! [cries of "Order."] My lords, I speak to order! [renewed uproar].

Lord BROUGHAM (at the opposition side, and with great vehemence): I am speaking to order too. I have a right to be heard [much confusion].

The Earl of DEVON (amid the noise): I shall take the sense of the House.

Lord BROUGHAM: Very well; take the sense of the House—take the sense of the House.

The Earl of DEVON: I shall. I am now speaking to order.

Lord BROUGHAM.—And I am speaking to order, too [Here there were very loud cries of "Order, order," from all parts of the assembly, and the Earl of Devon retired to his place]. The noble and learned lord then with great emphasis and amidst profound silence, repeated his statement, and his belief in its accuracy, that the landlords of Ireland had so rid themselves of the poor.

Lord DESART inquired why the noble and learned lord persevered in these attacks, which would eventually, when the truth was known, call forth public contempt [cheers].

Lord BROUGHAM considered he was perfectly justified in the statements he made.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE, amidst much cheering, maintained that the course pursued by the Government was the best policy, and their measures of relief had been nobly seconded by the voluntary contributions of the people.

## CRACOW.—THE RUSSIAN-DUTCH LOAN.

The adjourned debate on Mr. Hume's resolutions, denouncing the annexation of Cracow, and recommend-

ing that the payments, by this country, on account of the Russian-Dutch loan, should cease, was resumed on Thursday; and continued at considerable length, with much repetition of arguments.

The motion was supported by Mr. MONCKTON MILNES, Dr. BOWRING, Sir ROBERT INGLIS, and Mr. THOMAS DUNCOMBE. The Government view—condemning the annexation of Cracow, but regarding the money question as derogatory to a high policy, the refusal of payment as derogatory to national faith—was supported by Lord DALMEY, Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH, Lord MAHON, and Sir ROBERT PEEL. Lord GEORGE BENTINCK took a separate course of his own; offering an unqualified vindication of the conduct pursued by Austria, Prussia, and Russia; and announcing that he should move the direct negative even to the first of the resolutions, which condemned the violation of treaty.

Sir W. MOLESWORTH concurred in the first resolution, but could not give his assent to those which followed it. There were certain colonies which we got in consideration of making the payments in question, such as the Cape of Good Hope, Demerara, Esequibo, and Berbice. If we refused to continue the payments, we should, in common justice, give up those colonies. They were taken possession of by us during the last war, to save them from the French, when Holland was overrun by France. When that country was evacuated arrangements were entered into whereby we, for various purposes, engaged to pay about six millions of money, and retain the colonies in question. The Russo-Dutch loan, therefore, became a debt due from this country, in consideration of our retaining those colonies. He admitted that the separation of Holland and Belgium released us verbally from the payment of the loan. But as it was with our consent and connivance that that separation took place, we could not but engage to continue the payment.

Lord G. BENTINCK attempted to prove that the annexation of Cracow constituted no violation of the treaty of Vienna. Cracow was not meant to be a "free city," like Hamburg or Lubeck, but merely a neutral military position, governed, week by week, under the surveillance of the Three Powers. Lord George quoted statements by Colonel Du Platt, the English Consul-General at Warsaw, by newspaper correspondents at Cracow, and by Herr Von Hoffendorff, formerly Counsel to the Senate at Cracow, to show that the Austrian troops were hailed by the inhabitants of Cracow as liberators from a reign of terror under the Revolutionary Government, worthy of the days of Robespierre and Marat. [This assertion was greeted by loud cries of "Oh, oh!" which were repeated frequently as Lord George went on, mingled with laughter.] He contrasted a threatening proclamation by the Provisional Government with the Austrian proclamation offering the favour of "a paternal Sovereign and a clement Emperor." Herr Von Hoffendorff represented, in a letter to a brother collegian in this country, that the mercantile prosperity of Cracow has enormously increased since the annexation; and the Austrian Government has assumed municipal debts to the extent of 3,000,000 of dollars: "What," asked Herr Von Hoffendorff, "did they want more?"

In fact, Lord George was inclined to believe that Cracow had not been injured, but that instead of tyranny and despotism fair freedom and prosperity were likely to be her lot [loud laughter]. Far from censuring, he, for the reasons he had given, thanked the mild, the clement Emperor of Austria; he thanked the just King of Prussia; and he thanked, also, the Emperor of Russia [shouts of laughter]. He thanked those Northern Powers that their too long forbearance had at last given place to the mercy of decision; that they had put down and smothered those demons of revolution who promised to keep Europe in hot water, while they were ruining their own country and disturbing their neighbours [much laughter].

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE thought it was now high time that the House of Commons committed itself to an opinion on this subject. The fate of Cracow was but the indication of a plot against the general liberties of Europe. He thanked Mr. Hume for bringing this subject under the attention of the House. The pecuniary consideration involved in the resolutions was the most unimportant part of them. What was wanted was a declaration of opinion, on the part of the House, in reference to the absorption of Cracow—a declaration of opinion which would not embarrass her Majesty's Government, but which would strengthen their hands should a struggle ensue. So monstrous an act of imperial spoliation, tyranny, and wrong, should not pass uncensured and uncondemned by the British House of Commons.

Sir ROBERT PEEL followed the line of argument taken by Ministers, including also Sir William Molesworth's view. He pointed out the fact that this country had undertaken to pay the money on account of the Russo-Dutch loan even should a war break out between the contracting powers. He protested against the conduct of the Three Powers; but he protested also against the language of the Minister of France; for he could not admit that the misdeeds of others, if there be misdeeds, could justify either this country or France, morally or legally, in violating the treaty. He believed that in the present state of Europe a strict adherence to treaties is the best guarantee for peace. He would not concur in the declaration proposed by Mr. Hume, without being prepared with some practical step. He preferred leaving the matter to the discretion and responsibility of the Executive Government. He could not find that the elaborate arguments of Prince Metternich at all justified the violation of the treaty. At the same time, he was no partizan of Cracow: he denied that Cracow had any right to disturb the peace of its neighbours; and he was not prepared to say that there might not have been justification for interference of the Three Powers had they previously communicated with England and France. He thought the conduct of those Three Powers calculated to unsettle the stability of the public policy of Europe. "It is a precedent for interference with other states to an extent which is inconsistent with the independence of other states." Sir Robert added a few words on the breach of faith in the Three Powers in not having given to their Polish subjects, as well as to Cracow, the representative assemblies and national institutions which they had promised

by treaty. He concurred in Lord Palmerston's protest, and felt bound to give the Government his support.

Sir JOHN WALSH moved the adjournment of the debate; and, after some sharp bickering on that point, the debate was again adjourned, till Tuesday next.

## FREE TRADE IN CORN.

On Friday evening, Mr. HENRY BAILEY elicited an important declaration from Lord John Russell. He observed that France and Belgium have for some time past prohibited the exportation of corn; agents for the Belgian and French Governments are in England buying up grain; and he wanted to know from the First Lord of the Treasury, whether Government, having regard to these things, would feel called upon to prohibit the exportation of corn from this country?

Lord JOHN RUSSELL said, that although he had received no notice of the question, he had no objection to state the general opinion of the Government:—

We are perfectly aware that there is at present a very large demand of corn for Belgium and France, and that prices are rising in this country in consequence; but we are of opinion that the prohibition of the exportation of corn is a mode of preventing corn from being brought into this country [loud cheers]. We are of opinion that an importing merchant, if he have security that he can bring in his corn here for consumption, or take it to another market, will be likely to bring it here in preference; but if he is to be told that his corn once arrived on our shores is not to be exported again, he will be rather induced to avoid a market where his grain will be locked up in this manner, and to send his produce to some other market where there may be greater freedom of commercial transaction. I was not prepared for the question; but I have felt myself called upon to state the views of the Government upon a point which certainly cannot be regarded otherwise than as highly important, and to declare that we are opposed to any such interference as the honourable gentleman alludes to [cheers].

## THE LANDED PROPERTY (IRELAND) BILL.

In the House of Commons, on Friday night, when Lord JOHN RUSSELL moved the order of the day for going into committee on the Poor Relief (Ireland) Bill, he took occasion to explain the actual state of the measures for the relief of destitution in Ireland:—

Sir, in the midst of the present afflicting circumstances of Ireland, I think it due to the House—with the darkness surrounding us, and the perils before us—to acquaint them with the steps that are taken from time to time, and with those measures which may, at a future period, have a serious influence on the destinies both of that country and of this.

He first glanced at what Government had done, and at what they refused to do. They had kept 10,000 tons of grain in store for the use of those places which have not supplies in the usual way of trade; they had granted £50,000 for seed; and they had slightly augmented the fund to aid the progress of destitute emigrants inland from Quebec and Montreal; but they had refused to undertake a general corn importation, or the cultivation of the land, or the responsibility of conducting and promoting emigration; believing that the interference of Government would not facilitate and increase, but would impede and diminish those operations. The amount spent on relief works in the month of February was £944,141; the number of persons employed in the last week, 708,228. In order to release labour for the purpose of ploughing and sowing, notice has been given from the Treasury to the Board of Works, that the number employed should be reduced by twenty per cent., and that, thenceforth, the process of reduction should continue, gradually to introduce the new system. Lord John had received a deputation to present a memorial, signed by sixty-four peers and forty-three Irish Members of the House of Commons, embodying resolutions respecting the new Poor Relief Bill, and especially objecting to the provision of out-door relief for the able-bodied. Lord John insisted upon the necessity of giving such relief for the destitute when the workhouse is full, under the check of a labour-test, as in England. He had asked the deputation what they would substitute for his proposition; and perhaps in that House gentlemen would be more successful in suggestion than the deputation had been. They had talked of voluntary charity: there is, Lord John admitted, much charity in Ireland, but it is the charity not of the rich to the poor, but of the poor to the very poor. As a body, the owners of property in Ireland have not done what they ought in the crisis, even proportionately to their means. In England, the average rate levied for the relief of the poor amounts to 1s. 7½d. in the pound; in Ireland, it is 5½d. Every one has been shocked by the number of deaths in the union of Skibbereen: the value of property in that union is estimated at £98,000, its real value is £130,000: the poor-rate is 6d. in the pound; an additional rate of 3d. assessed in November last has never been levied. Lord John Russell defended another of the clauses which had been attacked—the clause increasing the number of ex-officio Guardians. He hoped that many vital questions in Ireland are on their way to solution, not by legislative enactments, but by the influence of popular and national feeling. But he should despair of the working of this or any other bill unless all classes were to co-operate in strenuous exertions for the common good.

It was stated the other night that there were in the Cabinet Irish landed proprietors, and their names were mentioned. Two, three, or four Irish proprietors have seats in the Cabinet; and it was implied that they had been enabled to influence the deliberations of the Cabinet for their own purposes, and had obtained an undue bias for their own class. These members of the Cabinet are parties with us in proposing this bill—of this bill which imposes such burdens on the landed proprietors; and they add the weight of their authority to the introduction of this measure; and it is on their authority, and in the name of the Government to which I belong, that I ask the House to go into committee on this bill [much cheering].

A debate more animated than novel ensued. Mr. STAFFORD O'BRIEN complimented Lord John Russell's speech, but retorted his reproaches with criticism on official blunders in Ireland, and repeated his own declaration at a former sitting, that he would rather have the English poor-law, clause by clause, than the present bill. Mr. DILLON BROWN concurred in this.

Mr. GREGORY, Captain BATESON, and Mr. SHAW, objected to out-door relief.



The Minister was supported by Mr. POULETT SCROPE, Mr. ELLICE, and Sir BENJAMIN HALL.

Sir B. HALL showed, from the reports of the Poor-law Commissioners, that in almost every union in Ireland the gentry had shown a disinclination to put the Poor-law into execution, and to levy or collect the rates for its administration. He considered such conduct to be a neglect of duty. But this was not all. He read a list of subscriptions to the relief fund at Mallow, to show that gentlemen of £10,000 a year had thought their duty performed by giving £5, and gentlemen of £6,000 a year by giving £2 to that charity. He amused the House by quoting, from the works of Dr. Doyle, a description of the landlords of Ireland in his time, which he certainly considered exaggerated. That rev. divine had described them as persons of much pride and little property, who could not be entrusted with your honour or your purse, and had summed up his character of them by calling them the slave-drivers of Ireland, the very image of those who wielded the lash in Barbadoes and America. As he did not wish to hand over the poor of Ireland to the tender mercies of such gentlemen, he should support the motion before the House, because it would make a legal provision for them, and would so conduce to the welfare, security, prosperity, and salvation of that country.

Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH advocated the Poor-law, but re-asserted the necessity of further large measures, especially systematic colonization. As to the mere nominal owners of land, they are a curse to their country and their order; they must be got rid of, and their property transferred, like that of bankrupt traders, to those who can work it efficiently. He concluded by saying—

An efficient Poor-law, and a law against mendicancy and vagrancy, might do much towards inducing the Irish labourer to work. Systematic emigration and other measures might open to him new field of employment. But the Irish proprietors were the persons who must exert themselves, and must provide employment for the great bulk of the Irish population, in the cultivation and improvement of their estates. It was said that a large portion of the Irish landowners were too poor—that their estates were so burdened by debts, mortgages, settlements, and other incumbrances, that they were merely the nominal possessors of those estates, and received but a trifling portion of the rents. In fact, they were bankrupts ["hear, hear," and laughter], and the existence of that class of bankrupt proprietors was one of the greatest curses of Ireland [hear, hear]. They were unable to discharge the obligations imposed upon them by the seeming possession of their estates. They brought discredit upon their entire order, and upon all its members, however meritorious some of them might be [cheers]. They must be got rid of [cheers and laughter]. They must be treated as bankrupt merchants and tradesmen were treated in England. Their estates must be sold, and the proceeds divided among the creditors, and then it might be hoped that their successors would do their duty as landowners [hear, hear]. His deep conviction was, that the salvation of Ireland could only be worked out by the efforts of Irish landowners and proprietors. If they exerted themselves, and were bold and courageous, they might convert the present hideous calamity into a great moral and social revolution for the benefit of Ireland. And the people of England would gladly assist them by every means in their power. But if they were faint-hearted, craven, negligent, and apathetic, then God help them, for man could not [cheers].

A little before one o'clock the debate was adjourned to Monday.

On Monday night the debate was resumed by

Sir W. CLAY, who approved of the bill before the House, thinking it impracticable, considering the present state of Ireland, to extend the poor-law of England, in all its provisions, to that country. It was not a perfect poor-law that the House was now considering for Ireland, but it was, in his opinion, the best substitute for a perfect poor-law which the anomalous state of that country at present permitted them to extend to it.

Captain JONES and Mr. HAMILTON disapproved of out-door relief. Mr. V. STUART in favour of it.

Mr. J. O'CONNELL had himself pointed out various measures, such as the supply of food and of grain corn, which ought to have been tried before an extended poor-law; and to the opinions which he then expressed he now adhered. As he understood Lord J. RUSSELL to have declared on a former occasion, that on the 20th of March next he intended to withdraw twenty per cent. of the labourers from the public works, he deemed it right to warn his lordship that if he carried his intentions into effect, we should have a mad and violent insurrection in some of the most distressed counties of Ireland. He also warned his lordship that any strong attempt at the repression of vagrancy in Ireland at the present moment would not only be impracticable, but would also be a fruitful source of dissatisfaction and outrage; and, therefore, he warned his lordship to reconsider his determination on both these points. Having uttered these grave warnings, he proceeded to declare his intention to vote for this bill, but not for the reasons alleged for it, either by Lord J. Russell or by Sir B. Hall. He should vote for it because he was convinced that everything which the Government had yet done was inadequate to relieve the calamity which had befallen his wretched and distracted country. He was convinced, however, that this bill would no more carry the flattering promises of Lord J. Russell into effect, than the present law had carried into effect the flattering promises of Mr. Commissioner Nicholls. After denouncing the clause appointing additional *ex officio* guardians, he proceeded to answer the question which Lord J. Russell had not indeed put to him, but to the Irish party. If he were asked what plan he would adopt instead of this poor-law, he would say at once, that he would grant to Ireland a loan of three or fourfold the amount of the present. Such an advance to Ireland would only be an act of justice; for it would not be more than the money which had been taken from Ireland by an act originally passed against the will of its population, and 1816 violated most grossly by the English Parliament.

Lord COURTENAY, Sir D. NORREYS, and Major LAYARD, supported the bill; Mr. VESSEY opposed it.

Lord JOHN MANNERS, after lauding the railway scheme of Lord G. Bentinck, which had been rejected by the House to save a Ministry, entered into an able

argument to prove that this bill would be most injurious to the interests of Irish landlords by a rigid analysis of its various clauses. He protested against the clause establishing union districts as the area for rating as a system, which would make the proprietor who performed his duties pay for the maintenance of the poor on the estate of him who did not; and he concluded by calling on the English members to resist the imposition of such a system on the landlords of Ireland, as it might soon be imposed on their own by the destruction of that ancient and parochial territorial system, which had tended so much to the power and glory of this country.

Mr. LABOUCHERE observed that Lord J. Manners had not objected so much to this measure in itself as he had objected to its not being accompanied by other measures much more extensive. He could not but suspect that his lordship was alluding to the railway project of Lord G. Bentinck, and that the loss of that measure was his principal inducement to oppose this bill. Into that project, as it had been already disposed of, he declined to enter, though on general grounds he wished it to be understood that he was not opposed to the establishment of railways in Ireland. He then defended the landlords of that country from the sweeping censure which had been cast upon them, and particularly eulogized the munificent liberality of Sir R. Booth, who had rescued the people of Sligo from death, not in scores, but in fifties, in his neighbourhood. But, in admitting that many Irish landlords had nobly performed the duties attached to property, he was compelled to acknowledge that many others, both resident and non-resident, had forgotten the obligations which it imposed upon them; and he rejoiced particularly in that clause of this bill which would compel such persons in future to contribute to the relief of distress, and would give them a selfish interest in the employment of the poor, by throwing the support of the poor upon them when unemployed.

Mr. W. S. O'BRIEN did not deny that £10,000,000 was a liberal grant to Ireland; but he regretted that, although we were now in the sixth month of the famine, so small a portion of it had been expended in reproductive works. After stating some objections he had to different clauses of the bill, he observed that he should willingly give his consent to the motion before the House; for ever since the year 1830 he had been a warm advocate of out-door relief to the able-bodied poor of Ireland.

Mr. ROEBUCK vindicated himself from the accusation that he was actuated either by spite or by an undue love of popularity, in the remarks which he had recently made upon the Irish landlords. The Irish landlords! How could he attack them from spite, when he did not know who they were, unless they were the tax-gatherers and mortgagees of that country. As to popularity, what did his accusers mean by stating that certain English members—and himself among others—were seeking it by endeavouring to get a Poor-law for Ireland? What did popularity-hunting mean, except that they were seeking the approbation of good men by good deeds? and such a deed he called the bill which imposed on Ireland a stringent Poor-law. He then took a review of the social condition of Ireland, in which he attributed its principal evils to the fact of its labouring population depending not on wages, but on small patches of land for their support. Hence agrarian outrages, assassinations, and all the wild justice of revenge. To cure these evils the gentlemen of England demanded for their Irish fellow-countrymen the same law which they had conceded to their English; and he defied Mr. Shaw, on whom he made a savage onslaught, and all his Irish associates, to prove that what had been eminently beneficial to England would be ruinous to Ireland. Ruinous to Ireland! That in their vocabulary meant ruinous to Irish landlords; for, whenever an Irish landlord was called on to do his duty, his constant cry was that Ireland was ruined. Now, no country could be ruined by making its landlords do their duty; and as this bill was calculated to produce that effect, he should cordially support it at present. The time would come when we should have to criticise this mass of legislation, and we should have to show how inadequate the plans of Lord J. Russell were for the general good of Ireland.

After a somewhat desultory discussion, in which Colonel VERNER, Mr. M. J. O'CONNELL, Mr. D. CALLAGHAN, and Sir A. BROOKE took part, the House resolved itself into the proposed committee, but immediately resumed and adjourned.

#### THE EDUCATION SCHEME OF GOVERNMENT.

In the House of Lords, on Monday, Lord BROUGHAM presented a petition from a body of Protestant Dissenters in the county of Wilts, against the plan of education laid down by her Majesty's Government in the recent Minutes. He did not at all concur with these petitioners. Nothing could be more unfounded or ridiculous than apprehensions, on the part of the Dissenters, of the tendency of the Government scheme of education.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE agreed with the noble and learned lord that nothing could be more unfounded than the jealousy exhibited of the Minutes of the Council of Education, or the apprehension that they were intolerant in their effect, and calculated to exclude Dissenters from the benefit of the system. He should not have been at all surprised at these feelings had the facts on which they were founded been true. But he had seen a letter, circulated for the purpose of procuring signatures in opposition to the plan, which asserted as facts the direct reverse of what those Minutes contained; it positively affirmed, that the Minutes gave a monopoly to the Church, which, with all his respect for the Church, he was the last person to wish should be given to it in the matter of education. No one benefit was conferred under those Minutes that was not extended to the community at large; the regulations were carefully guarded, so as to be made accessible to all classes; no one sect had any advantage that could

not be obtained by others if they thought proper, the scheme being founded strictly on the principle of religious liberty to all.

Lord BROUGHAM had also seen the letter the noble marquis referred to, and was quite astonished at it, as its allegations were directly contrary to the truth. He should, perhaps, be worse thought of than the noble marquis for saying it, but his objection to the Government plan was, that it did not establish a more general and national system of education, with more interference on the part of the Church. There would not have been a greater clamour against it from these worthy persons than against the present scheme, and the country would have gained something for its trouble, whereas, now it got little or nothing. His own Parish School Bill of 1821 was borne down by the opposition of the Dissenters, because the Church supported it. He proposed to give the clergyman of a parish a veto on the appointment of a schoolmaster; but the noble marquis did not go nearly so far as that. This opposition was very painful, for between the two bodies education fell to the ground.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE said the sentiments of the petitioners were by no means universally those of the Dissenters. A GREAT PORTION OF THAT BODY WAS FAVOURABLE TO THE PLAN.

Earl FITZWILLIAM presented petitions from Dissenting congregations at Selby against the new education scheme of the Government.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

ARREST FOR DEBT IN IRELAND.—On Wednesday, Sir H. W. BARRON moved the second reading of a bill which he had introduced for abolishing the arrest on account of debts under £20 in Ireland; assimilating the law to that of England. The motion was opposed by Mr. MONAHAN (Irish Solicitor-General), on the ground that the bill would effect too sweeping a change; the number of debts under £20 being vast; and there is not in Ireland the machinery of the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Courts, as there is throughout England, for investigating the honesty of debtors. He announced, however, that he had under his own consideration a measure relating to the subject. Eventually Sir HENRY BARRON withdrew his bill.

NEW WRIT.—In the House of Commons, on Thursday, Lord M. HILL moved for a new writ for the borough of Lewes, in the room of Sir H. Elphinstone, who has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

ABOLITION OF DEATH PUNISHMENTS.—The following is the list of members who voted on Mr. Ewart's motion on Tuesday evening last, "That leave be given to bring in a bill for the total repeal of the punishment of death." The House divided: Ayes, 41; Noes, 81.

#### AYES.

Aglionby, H. A.	Escott, B.	Pechell, Captain
Baine, W.	Feldens, J.	Strickland, Sir G.
Barclay, D.	Hammer, Sir J.	Tancred, H. W. J.
Barnard, E. G.	Hindley, C.	Thornely, T.
Bowring, Dr.	Hutt, W.	Trelawny, J. S.
Brotherton, J.	Kelly, Sir F. R.	Turner, E.
Brown, W.	Lawless, C.	Walker, R.
Castlereagh, Visct.	Mackinnon, W. A.	Warburton, H.
Christie, W. D.	McCarthy, A.	Williams, W.
Crawford, W. S.	Milnes, R. M.	Yorke, H. R.
Currie, R.	Morison, Gen.	
Dennistoun, J.	Muntz, G. F.	
D'Eyncourt, C. T.	O'Brien, C.	TELLERS.
Duncan, G.	O'Connell, J.	Ewart, Mr.
Ellis, W.	Pattison, J.	Hume, J.

#### NOES.

Ackland, Sir T. D.	Grey, Sir G.	Patten, J. W.
Adlerley, C. B.	Hallford, Sir H.	Peel, J.
Aldam, W.	Hastie, A.	Protheroe, E. D.
Aruncel and Surrey,	Henley, J. W.	Pulsford, R.
Earl of	Herbert, S.	Pusey, P.
Baillie, H. J.	Heron, Sir R.	Rashleigh, W.
Baring, H. B.	Hope, G. W.	Reid, Colonel
Baring, T.	Howard, C. W. G.	Round, C. G.
Barrington, Viscount	Ingestre, Viscount	Russell, Lord J.
Bellew, R. M.	Inglis, Sir R. H.	Scrope, G. P.
Bennet, P.	James, Sir W. C.	Seymour, Lord
Bentinck, Lord G.	Jervis, Sir J.	Shaw, F.
Beresford, Major	Law, C. E.	Sheppard, T.
Berkeley, C.	Lawson, A.	Sibthorp, Colonel
Buller, Sir J. Y.	Lefroy, A.	Smith, J. A.
Carew, W. H. P.	Lincoln, Earl of	Smythe, G.
Chichester, Lord J.	Lindsay, Colonel	Somerville, Sir W.
Clay, Sir W.	Macaulay, T. B.	Spooner, R.
Clerk, Sir G.	Mackenzie, T.	Stuart, W. V.
Clive, Viscount	Manners, Lord J.	Strutt, E.
Douglas, Sir H.	Matheson, J.	Vesey, T.
Duncombe, O.	Miles, W.	Vyse, H.
Dundas, Sir D.	Monahan, J. H.	Wortley, J. S.
Entwistle, W.	Morpeth, Viscount	Wrightson, W. B.
Fellowes, E.	Newry, Viscount	
Ferguson, Sir R. A.	Northland, Viscount	TELLERS.
Frewin, C. H.	Palmer, R.	Tafnell, H.
Glaistone, Captain	Palmer, G.	Craig, G.
Graham, Sir J.	Parker, J.	

THE ABOLITION OF THE ETON MONTEM.—On Monday, in reply to Mr. JAMES, Lord J. RUSSELL said that Government did not intend to interfere with the decision of the Head Master of Eton College, for abolishing the Montem. The matter was left entirely to his decision, as the most competent party to deal with it.

PROGRESSIST SOCIETY.—EDINBURGH.—A correspondent calls our attention to a society formed under the above designation, with the object of disseminating true political principles, and corresponding, as far as practicable, with those in every country who hold the same opinions. The basis of the society is as follows:—

1. That all men are born equal, and with an inalienable right to freedom.
2. That it is the right and duty of every human being, who is not, by his own misdeeds, under the ban of justice, to assert and maintain his private, social, and political independence.
3. That the sole duty of Government is the protection of life and property.
4. That nothing can be politically right which is morally wrong.
5. That personal fitness for any office in the State ought to be the only necessary qualification, irrespective of artificial distinctions of rank, station, or wealth.
6. That the glorious Christian maxims of "doing unto others as you yourselves should wish to be done to," and "loving God and your neighbour as yourself," ought to form the foundation of all legislation.
7. That the object of all laws should be, to give the greatest possible happiness to the greatest possible number.

The necessity of a penny-postage is now being canvassed at Rome.



## FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

## FRANCE.

**THE SUFFRAGE QUESTION.**—The present electoral system of France is now the subject of much agitation throughout all classes. The Chamber of Deputies on Saturday last obtained a victory over the Cabinet in affirming a proposition to discuss the subject made by M. Duvergier d'Auranne. The main features of the reform now proposed are, an extension of the suffrage by diminishing the amount of the qualifications of an elector, and by admitting in certain cases an intellectual qualification in lieu of the condition of property, the second feature being the augmentation of the number of representatives.

**THE KING AND THE "ENTENTE CORDIALE."**—The King is out of his mind with joy at the turn that affairs have taken, and so completely seems everything in the eyes of the courtiers changed that I fear I gave to one of them mortal offence yesterday in expressing a doubt that the King will have the honour to receive her Majesty the Sovereign of Great Britain at "his little place in Eu," some time next autumn. The public, who have never taken part with the Court in the Montpensier marriage affair, will, no doubt, feel satisfied when the happy alteration in the relations of the two Governments that has unquestionably taken place shall be demonstrated to them. It would appear that the King has not been taken by surprise by the—in this respect—favourable accounts which reached him yesterday from London; for at the grand musical *soirée* of the Duke de Nemours last week, his Majesty was so pointed in his attentions to the Marquis of Normanby (whom he took by the arm half-a-dozen times during the night), as (I am quite serious) to excite jealousy in a certain quarter.—*Times' Correspondent.*

## ITALY.

**MR. COBDEN AT ROME.**—"Sir Ricardo Cobden," as the Italian newspapers insist on calling him, was introduced this week to Pius IX. by Cardinal Fieschi, and had a prolonged interview with our Sovereign. The most distinguished of the Roman nobility vie with each other in doing honour to the English cotton-spinner. An edict went forth this week, opening the ports to foreign corn of every sort, which, though limited for the present, will no doubt be made a permanent measure.

## BELGIUM.

**FOOD RIOTS.**—Private letters from Belgium are of a most alarming tenor. It has been with great difficulty that the stores of some of the principal merchants in Antwerp have been preserved against the attacks of the populace. A letter from Malines mentions that the inhabitants of the district were living in constant dread of outbreaks and attacks on property, and especially on the stores of corn merchants and provision shops. The prices continued to rise. In consequence of the overwhelming influx of mendicants from Flanders into Brussels, the Government come to the resolution of removing them all back to their respective communes. The Brussels journals of the 6th present a mournful picture of this operation. At six in the morning of that day upwards of 1,000 of these poor creatures were marched out by the gate leading to Halle, escorted by gendarmes and other policemen, the sick and infirm being put into three large waggons.

**BEDFORD.—MR. VINCENT'S LECTURES ON THE COMMONWEALTH.**—Mr. Vincent is giving a course of six lectures in this town, on the Commonwealth of England, to enthusiastic audiences, in the Assembly-rooms. His object is to illustrate the characters of the men and principles of that memorable era. Large numbers of Conservatives have attended these lectures, and have vied with Radicals and Whigs in their hearty responses to the glorious truths enunciated in their presence. The last two lectures are delivered this week.—**LUTON.**—Mr. Henry Vincent is delivering his Commonwealth lectures in this town to large and increasing meetings. The past gives an admirable key to the present; and the characters of the great men of the Commonwealth contrast rather disparagingly with the puny Dissenters and sham reformers of this age. The cordial responses which constantly greet the lecturer as he proceeds with his noble theme, is an encouraging proof of the advance we are making, and of the gradual awakening of the nation to the great principles of civil and religious freedom. The meetings were large, although one shilling and sixpence was charged admission to each meeting.—**DONCASTER, YORKSHIRE.**—Mr. Vincent has visited this town, and addressed a large meeting on Civil and Religious Liberty, in the Theatre. Also two meetings on Education and Temperance, over which the right worshipful the Mayor presided. The people evinced the most intense interest in the principles set forth by Mr. Vincent.

**LORD JOHN RUSSELL.**—We find the following paragraph in a provincial journal, but cannot vouch for its accuracy:—"Considerable interest has lately been felt respecting the conduct of Lord John Russell, as Prime Minister of England, in patronizing, by his presence, Puseyite forms of worship. The noble lord is in the habit of attending St. Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, where the clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Bennett, is a Tractarian of the very first water. So closely, indeed, do the forms of worship practised here resemble those which are customary in Roman Catholic churches, that a very intelligent Roman Catholic has assured us that he could scarcely distinguish between the forms and those which are observed in his own chapel."

**ELIHU BURRITT,** the world-wide philanthropist, delivered a lecture to 3,000 persons in the City-hall, Glasgow, on the organic sinfulness of war. He was most cordially received.

**PROCLAMATION FOR A GENERAL FAST.**—The *Gazette* of Friday contains a proclamation appointing Wednesday, the 24th inst., for a day of humiliation and prayer throughout the kingdom. As we have referred to the subject in a leading article, we need not give the proclamation at length.

## IRELAND.

The official return gives 708,220 as the number of persons employed on public works during the week ending the 27th of February.

**TILLAGE OF THE LAND.**—A gentleman travelling from the Queen's County to Kilkenny, on Saturday last, counted the number of farm-labourers and instruments of agriculture to be seen at either side of the road as he passed along, engaged in the cultivation of the soil; and between the village of Borris-in-Ossory and Kilkenny he could observe but *nine men and four ploughs* so employed! The number of labourers engaged on the road under the Board of Works was at the same time quite beyond his power of calculation.—*Dublin Correspondent of the Morning Post.*—The General Central Relief Committee, Archbishop Murray presiding, passed a resolution, on Tuesday, entreating the clergy of all denominations to use every exhortation to the promptest exertions in the culture of the land.—There are some counties in which landlords and tenants alike appear to have totally abandoned the cultivation of the land, and extensive tracts still remain absolutely waste. Such is the lamentable state of considerable portions of the counties of Mayo, Galway, Sligo, Cork, and, to a lesser extent, of Kerry, Clare, the northern part of Tipperary, and other western and southern counties. In some of the midland counties, too, tillage is to some extent neglected, whilst the present most favourable season for spring sowing is rapidly passing away.

**EMIGRATION.**—About three hundred persons daily is the number who are emigrating from Ireland. The quays of Dublin are every day crowded with emigrants, principally natives of Tipperary, Kilkenny, King's and Queen's Counties, Westmeath, Longford, Cavan, and Leitrim. They invariably appear to be of that class known in Ireland by the description of "snug people," or fine able young fellows of the labouring class, whose energies do not seem to have been much impaired by the prevailing destitution. "Many of the Irish proprietors," says the *Dublin Evening Post*, "are zealously engaged in promoting emigration from their estates, in the same manner as Lord De Vesci. Landowners of the first rank amongst the proprietors of Leinster would be even now ready to contract with the agents or masters of vessels to convey thousands of persons from their respective estates, and the terms on which they propose to assist the emigrants in their laudable enterprise are—to pay the passage, to provide every means of making that passage comfortable, and to give to each person, on landing at New York or Quebec, a certain sum of money, not less than twenty shillings. The great difficulty apprehended is the want of a sufficient number of vessels."

The statement of a dissolution of Parliament in June is not at all likely to prove correct. Whatever may have been the desire to bring the labours of the session to an early termination, and to obtain the assistance of a new Parliament before the harvest, we believe that the state of public business affords no probability of such an arrangement.—*Observer.*

**REPRESENTATION OF WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**—The result of the "Berkeley feud," upon which so many letters have appeared from the Hon. Grantley Berkeley, the present member for this division of the county, has at length assumed a definite appearance. Mr. Granville C. L. Berkeley having published his address, offering himself as a candidate in opposition to Mr. Grantley Berkeley. In his address, Mr. Granville Berkeley expresses his anxiety to see the law for the registration of voters, which he declares to be faulty and vexatious, amended; and declares himself adverse to making further endowments for the Church of any persuasion from funds raised by taxation from the people, and favourable to an inquiry as to how far it may be practicable to alter the system by which the church-rates are at present collected, having ever been a warm advocate of civil and religious liberty, though deeply and firmly attached to the doctrines of the Established Church. He declares himself favourable to State education, although he cannot approve of the plan of education proposed by the present Government; and, though most anxious to give them all the support in his power, he should be bound to oppose a plan which he conceived to be a manifest injustice to the conscientious Protestant Dissenter.

**AMERICAN SLAVERY.**—The "Proposal for a National Remonstrance against Slavery," which appeared in No. 53 of the *People's Journal*, and in a recent number of the *Mercury*, will cause the heart of every abolitionist in this country to leap for joy, and, of course, will carry dismay to that of every slaveholder, and every enemy of the coloured race. It is intended that the British memorial shall be accompanied by three millions of signatures—equal to the whole number of the slave population of the United States! A most sublime proposition of humanity! We trust that it will be carried into effect. The mammoth roll shall be exhibited to the American people as often as practicable, and carefully preserved for the inspection of posterity.—*Wm. Lloyd Garrison, in the Boston Liberator.*

**SABBATH TRAINS VOTE.**—The scrutineers will declare the state of the vote officially on Monday; and it is believed that Sir Andrew Agnew's motion will be carried by a majority. There are betwixt 100 and 150 votes to be decided upon by the Chairman, who, of course, will support the directors, and that will settle it. The majority in favour of Sir Andrew, without these votes, is about thirty. If, however, the disputed votes were given against Sir Andrew, there would then be a majority in favour of Sunday trains; but, as we have said, the presumption is, that the chairman will declare them to be against Sunday trains.—*Glasgow Post.*

**CANTERBURY ELECTION.**—The election to fill the vacancy occasioned in the representation of this city by the death of Mr. Bradshaw, took place on Monday morning. Mr. Gippis, the Tory candidate, having struck his colours on Saturday, there was no opposition to the return of the Liberal candidate, Lord Albert Conyngham, who formerly represented the city, from which he was compelled to retire on account of ill health.

## PETITION OF THE PEACE SOCIETY AGAINST THE INCREASE OF NAVAL AND MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the Committee of the Society for the Promotion of Permanent and Universal Peace

Sheweth,—That your Petitioners continue to regard the whole system and practice of war as contrary to all sound principles of reason and religion.

That your Petitioners look upon the military spirit, and military preparations and defences, as the weakness rather than the strength of a nation, and upon all increase of military establishments, as tending rather to augment the probabilities of war than to diminish them.

That your Petitioners are deeply anxious that the British Government should exhibit to the world the illustrious example of a simple reliance upon the practice of universal justice and the exercise of the Christian law of universal love, to the entire exclusion of all dependence upon brute force, in the relations subsisting between this great empire and the other nations of the earth.

Your Petitioners do therefore most earnestly deprecate the proposed increase of expenditure in the naval and military establishments of the country, especially at this moment when we are at peace with all the world; and do again urgently pray your honourable House to take immediate measures for the entire abolition of the war system, and the adoption of a legalized system of arbitration, which would render war, in time to come, all but impossible.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.,

Signed on behalf of the Committee, and by its order,  
JOHN JEFFERSON, Secretary.

**THE HANGMAN.**—As these sheets are passing through the press two poor creatures are being legally strangled, by the hangman, at Morpeth. The one, Welsh, for cutting a young man's throat while drunk; the other, Matthews, a railway labourer, condemned for stabbing and killing another railway labourer; the person killed being drunk at the time. Another man of the name of Hughes, charged with being an accessory before the fact, was acquitted; and three hours after leaving the dock was found drunk in a public-house in Newcastle, indecently joking about the fate of his unfortunate companion. Not a stone-throw from where these men were condemned, and about the same time, a labourer, employed by the same person as employed Matthews, beat his wife to death with a poker; they were both drunk. Since his condemnation Welsh's conduct has been of the most fearful and savage description; he threatening, if he had the power, to kill all who come in his way. Such are the moral lessons taught us by the hangman: horrifying and shocking all benevolent and pure minds, and seemingly creating an extra virulence and increased degree of brutality amongst those of a criminal order.—*From a Correspondent.*

**ALDERMAN GIBBS.**—Some proceedings in the Vice-Chancellor's Court last week had reference to the Walbrook case. Alderman Gibbs's accounts, as trustee of certain parish property, had been referred to the Master, who reported that Mr. Gibbs was a creditor to the amount of more than £590; and he now claimed payment of this sum, with costs. Vice-Chancellor Knight Bruce considered that, on a long series of years, this sum was, "in a sense," due to Mr. Gibbs; yet, inasmuch as it was a condition inherent in the trust to apply the annual receipts to the annual expenditure, and as this had not been done, Mr. Gibbs must lose the money. He censured the conduct of Mr. Gibbs, in neglecting to furnish accounts for twenty years, and in claiming at first a larger balance as due to him; but he attributed this to mistake, and not to dishonesty. Mr. Gibbs was adjudged to pay the costs of the hearings before the Master of the Rolls, subject to certain limitations.

**THE SALT TRADE IN INDIA.**—We are glad to learn that the agitation against the salt monopoly in India has been productive of some satisfactory relaxation of the impost. By a circular, signed by Mr. D. C. Aylwin, and dated Tuesday last, we are informed that "the Board of Control has, by the last overland mail, sent out orders to the local government of India to allow salt to be bonded at the different presidencies, in the same manner as every other article of commerce."

**CURIOUS FACTS IN TAXATION AND REVENUE.**—The following imposts are levied only in Great Britain, Ireland being exempt, viz.:—The tax on property and income, on windows, on horses, carriages, servants, dogs, excise on soap and bricks. Church-rates are levied only in England, church-cess being abolished in Ireland. A drawback of duty is allowed on timber and bricks used in erecting churches in England and Scotland, but not for any chapel or meeting-house of other religious denominations. Timber required for tin, copper, or other mines, is admitted duty free, but not for erecting any manufactory, or other commercial building!

**INTER-MURAL BURIALS.**—We learn on good authority that Government has prepared a bill to prohibit the further interment of corpses in the church-yards of large towns and populous districts.

**REMITTANCES FROM IRISH EMIGRANTS.**—The *Times* has obtained an account of the sums of money transmitted by Irish emigrants from Philadelphia and Baltimore, during 1846, to their friends and relatives at home. From Philadelphia, 170,000 dollars were sent; from Baltimore, 23,500 dollars. These sums, with those forwarded from New York, make a total of upwards of £200,000 sterling. "If, in addition to this, we estimate the probable amount sent in like manner from emigrant labourers in Canada and other parts of the world, as well as from those in England and Scotland, the conclusion can hardly be avoided, that a sum approaching the entire amount of the poor-rate paid by Irish landlords (and which the Chancellor of the Exchequer, a few evenings back, stated to have been £390,000 in 1846) is thus contributed to the relief of the destitute population of that country."



## ANOTHER ILLUSTRATION OF THE WORKING OF THE EDUCATION BRIBE.

(From the *Leeds Mercury*.)

We last week published a copy of a handbill, circulated by the managers of the Church schools in Holbeck, in this borough, holding out in the most prominent and tempting manner, to the working classes, the advantages that would be secured to their children in that school, from the recent educational measure of the Government. We now publish another announcement of the same kind, from a Church school on the opposite side of the town. We rather think our friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer will not be perfectly happy at seeing the interpretation put upon the measure in the country. The demands upon him will come much thicker and sooner than he had calculated. It would have shown, however, rather more discretion on the part of the managers of the Church schools if they had waited to see whether the Government measure receives the sanction of the House of Commons. We apprehend they are not quite sure of the money as yet. The following is the handbill:—

ST. MATTHEW'S DISTRICT, LITTLE LONDON, DAY-SCHOOLS.

CONDUCTED BY MR. J. CROMPTON, From the Normal Training Institution, Glasgow.

The managers of this school take this opportunity of inviting the attention of parents to the very important advantages which their children may derive from becoming scholars in it, in consequence of the recent resolutions of the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education.

Should this measure come into operation, the managers of this school will be able to select their best scholars, boys and girls, to be assistant teachers for five years, and to obtain for them the following salaries:—

At the end of the 1st year	£10 0 0
2nd year	12 10 0
3rd year	15 0 0
4th year	17 10 0
5th year	20 0 0

At the expiration of the fifth year, the most proficient and skilful among them will be selected, if desired, and sent to a Normal Training School, to be trained for future masters and mistresses, with salaries, while they are being trained, of £30 or £25; and to those who do not display the highest qualification for schoolmasters, but whose conduct and attainments are satisfactory, an opportunity will be offered of obtaining GOVERNMENT SITUATIONS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

If such temptations as the above, put out over the whole kingdom, are not calculated to bring the working classes into subservience to the Government and the Clergy, there must indeed be a higher degree of virtue in those classes than even we, with all our zeal as Voluntaries, and all our honest pride in the manly independence of our countrymen, have ventured to suppose. But let not the working classes "touch, taste, or handle" the bribe. Let them fling it from them with disdain.

## RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

**BELVOIR-STREET CHAPEL, LEICESTER.**—This spacious place of worship, after having been closed for some months, in order that arrangements might be made for warming and ventilating it, was re-opened on Wednesday. Dr. Hamilton, of Leeds, preached in the morning, taking for his subject the cleansing of the Temple by Jesus Christ. Mr. Toller, of Harborough, concluded the morning service by prayer. A collection was then made, which amounted to £47. In the afternoon dinner was served in the lecture-room, and upwards of a hundred ladies and gentlemen sat down. In the course of the afternoon, besides the delivery of suitable addresses by several of the gentlemen present, subscriptions were commenced, which made up, with the morning's collection, the liberal sum of £500. In the evening, the Rev. Mr. Brock, of Norwich, preached an excellent discourse from the words, "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus must suffer persecution," after which a collection was again made. On Sunday the anniversary services will be continued; and the Rev. C. Stovel, of London, will preach both in the morning and evening.—*Leicester Mercury*.

**RESIGNATION OF THE REV. J. LISTER.**—This gentleman, who has for upwards of forty-three years filled the office of pastor over the Baptist congregation belonging to Myrtle-street chapel, resigned his ministerial duties on Friday evening last.—*Liverpool Mercury*.

**GLANYRAFON, RADNORSHIRE.**—On Tuesday, the 2nd inst., Mr. Henry Jones, late student of Brecon Independent College, was ordained pastor over the Independent church at Glanyrafon.

**HANOVER, MONMOUTHSHIRE.**—Mr. Llewelyn Rowland Powell, the respected pastor of this ancient church, has resigned his charge, and intends shortly to remove to America.

Mr. J. George, has resigned his pastoral charge over the Baptist church at Harlington, and closes his labours there with the month of March.

**MR. O'CONNELL'S HEALTH.**—The accounts of Mr. O'Connell's illness which have appeared in some of the newspapers are said to be much exaggerated. Quiet, and change of scene, are expected to do much for him; and it is said that he is likely to visit Rome. The first attack of anything like serious illness has alarmed and depressed a man who, till now, has hardly known what illness is. It is probable that Mr. O'Connell's part in public life is over; but it is thought that he may yet be spared for several years to his relations and friends.—*Scotsman*.

**CORPORAL PUNISHMENTS IN THE ARMY.**—A Parliamentary return respecting corporal punishments in the army, just issued, shows that during the period from January, 1845, to July, 1846, there were 341 soldiers flogged; the sentences varied from thirty to two hundred lashes, and in the majority of cases the full number were inflicted. In sixty-one regiments there were no corporal punishments. From the 1st of August to the end of 1846 there were only five such punishments—in three cases twenty-five lashes were inflicted; in one, thirty; and in the last, fifty.

## EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS OF BARNSTAPLE.

We have great pleasure in publishing the following carefully-prepared analysis of the means of education in the town of Barnstaple, prepared by Mr. George Simmons of that town, and shall be glad to make public any statistics of a like nature, which the industry of the friends of education in other parts of the country may enable them to collect:—

In compliance with your wishes expressed a few weeks ago in your periodical, I have been collecting the statistics of all the schools in Barnstaple and its neighbourhood (comprising, in the whole, twelve parishes), and am very happy to say that the number exceeds our most sanguine expectation, after the unpromising statements made at the conference at Exeter, in December of last year.

The schools are divided as follows, into five different classes:—

- No. 1. Schools on charity, or partly aided by subscriptions.
- No. 2. Private schools for girls.
- No. 3. do. for boys.
- No. 4. Private dame schools, and a few kept by men, whose payments are weekly from 1d. to 4d.
- No. 5. Sunday-schools.

	Schools.	Established since 1833.	Girls.	Boys.
No. 1 contains	42	19	794	910
No. 2. do.	16	12	283	108
No. 3. do.	8	3	241	241
No. 4. do.	26	23	249	220
Total.....			1326	1479
			2805	

The population of these twelve parishes, according to the census of 1841, was ..... 19,130  
Allowance for six years' increase..... 1,154

Population for 1847..... 20,284  
which shows us that one child in every seven of the population attends day-school instruction. Regarding class No. 5, 1685 attend day-school; 352 work; 106 attend no day-school; so that if we include the number at work, and those not attending any day-school, with the numbers as before given, belonging to the other classes, we have a total sum of (2,805 plus 458) 3,263, which shows us a proportion of one in 6·2 of the population receiving some instruction. I have been careful not to include any children below the age of about five years; from three to five years of age, I should think there might be about 250 more. I may add that I have visited (with two or three exceptions) all these schools, and therefore can guarantee the accuracy of this statement.

## POSTSCRIPT.

Wednesday, March 17th.

## PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

## THE INDEPENDENCE OF CRACOW.

The adjourned debate on Cracow was resumed last night, and concluded at one o'clock.

The principal speakers were Sir J. WALSH, Lord H. VANE, Mr. STUART WORTLEY, Mr. CHRISTIE, Mr. W. S. O'BRIEN, Mr. B. ESCOTT, Mr. SMYTHE, Mr. D'ISRAELI, and Lord PALMERSTON.

Mr. D'ISRAELI lamented as much as any one could do, the downfall and partition of Poland, but the question now before the House had nothing to do with that event. The partition of Poland had "ceased to be a political catastrophe, and must now be recognized as an historic fact." Cracow was an Austrian town at the commencement of that struggle, which the treaty of Vienna was designed to terminate, and it had now become an Austrian town again. Against its becoming so both France and England had protested, and now the House of Commons was called upon to affirm the protest presented by Lord Palmerston on behalf of this country, and to punish one of the parties charged with having had a hand in the act complained of. He maintained it to be a principle of public law that the violation of a particular treaty inserted into a general treaty was not a violation of the general treaty. This had been decided by men "second to none," and on more occasions than one in reference to the treaty of Westphalia. The disturbances which every now and then agitated Poland did not originate with the people, who were better off in their present circumstances than they were under their ancient and national rulers, but with a banished and fallen aristocracy, who long enslaved, and at last betrayed their country. It was with these aristocratic conspirators that so many of the Liberals of this country sympathized—by encouraging whom they were endangering the peace of Europe, whilst they were doing anything but promoting the interests of the Polish people. On a former occasion, when Lord Palmerston was Foreign Minister, and when a similar proposal to that now before the House was made in reference to the payments in question to Russia, the noble lord insisted on paying the money, and on that occasion one of his strongest supporters was the honourable member for Montrose, who gave a hearty vote for that payment:—

The hon. gentleman has given a historical description of the motives which influenced him on that occasion. That was indeed a memorable occasion; it was the occasion when he sacrificed even his conscience to his country [laughter and cheering]. It was when he voted that black was white [renewed laughter], in order to secure, I will not say his party, but payment to the Emperor of Russia. That was his black speech; and this time he comes forward to recant in a white speech. But strange to say, after an interval of twelve years, when he has summoned up courage to make a white speech, and vote white, I understand he is now about to show the white feather [laughter and cheering]; and that, having recorded in memorable language, which I hope will find a niche in the future history of the reformed Parliament of England—having recorded his convictions in 1832—in 1847 he is going to do penance for that juvenile error.

Lord PALMERSTON, notwithstanding what had been said to the contrary by Lord George Bentinck and Mr. D'Israeli, still believed that the expression made use of in the Queen's Speech in reference to Cracow was cor-

rect. The articles 6, 7, 8, and 9 of the general treaty were of themselves sufficient, independently of the annexed treaties, to justify that belief. To these England was as much a party as to other portions of the treaty. The arrangements, therefore, with regard to Cracow, formed a part of the general arrangements to which Great Britain was party, and it was a violation of the treaty to alter these arrangements, without the consent of Great Britain. To this violation we might have the right to object, but we were not bound to do so. From the opinions which he entertained in reference to the extinction of Cracow, he could not meet the first resolution with a direct negative. But there were many considerations why the House should not adopt such a resolution, and he hoped it would not be pressed. As to the payment of the Russo-Dutch loan, he did not concur with those who alleged that the suppression of Cracow would justify this country discontinuing the payment of that loan. He trusted Mr. Hume would not press the House to a division.

Mr. HUME thought that his triumph was already complete. With the exception of Lord G. Bentinck and Mr. D'Israeli, the whole House reprobated the conduct of the Three Powers. Both throughout the country and in the House there was, with the exceptions just named, but one sentiment of reprobation entertained. Conceiving his triumph to be complete, he would not press his resolutions.

**TEN HOURS BILL.**—In the House of Commons, after the disposal of the private business, some conversation arose upon a proposal made by Mr. Dennistoun, for the postponement of the committee on the Factories Bill, appointed for this day, to give the manufacturers of Lancashire and other parts of England time to consider a proposal for an arrangement in which both masters and operatives were likely to concur, which had been forwarded to him by some of his constituents in Glasgow, and which had been presented by him to Lord John Russell, who seemed to consider it worthy of consideration. As Mr. Fielden, who introduced the bill, was not in his place, the question of postponing the committee of the whole House on the bill will be considered to-day, on the motion that the Speaker leave the chair.

**THE FAST.**—It was agreed, on the motion of Lord JOHN RUSSELL, that the Rev. Mr. Daltry, Archdeacon of Surrey, should be appointed to preach before the members of the House on the day of the General Fast, Wednesday the 24th instant.

**THE ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION.**—Lord JOHN RUSSELL postponed his motion with regard to the Ecclesiastical Commission, to Thursday, the 25th of March.

**IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS,** last night, Lord LYNDEHURST moved for the appointment of a select committee, to inquire into the circumstances under which it was proposed to amalgamate the Birmingham and Oxford Railway with one or other of the two great rival companies, the London and North-western and the Great Western. The committee moved for was, after some conversation, appointed. Their lordships very soon afterwards adjourned, no other business of public importance coming before them.

## ARRIVAL OF THE CAMBRIA.

The steam-ship *Cambria* brings advices from the United States to the 1st inst. The intelligence brought by this and previous arrivals during the week may be briefly summed up. On the 9th and 10th, the Senate had been occupied with providing 3,000,000 dollars for the Mexican war. Mr. Calhoun made an important speech, describing the difficulties and objections that militated against the further prosecution of the Mexican war, and proposing a new plan. He was in favour of abandoning all offensive operations, and establishing a line commencing at the mouth of the Rio Grande, thence up the river to El Paso, thence due West, striking the Gulf of California near its head; and holding this line, acting altogether on the defensive. Mr. Cass opposed this plan, and declared himself for a vigorous prosecution of the war. The measure was still under discussion.

The Three Million Bill has passed the House of Representatives, with the Willmot Proviso, which prohibits the introduction of slavery into any new state or territory that may be added to the union. The Willmot Proviso was adopted as an amendment, by 110 yeas to 89 nays. And the Three Million Bill, with the Willmot Proviso attached was finally passed by yeas, 115; nays, 105. The question now arises, will the bill, with the Willmot Proviso, pass the Senate? I (correspondent of the *Chronicle*) think not; and for the plain reason that there are represented in the Senate—Slaveholding states, 15; non-slaveholding ditto, 13. The present prospect is, the whole bill, proviso and all, will be knocked on the head in the Senate; but, then, you must not forget that both Houses want peace, both Government and people want peace, whether to be obtained by war or negotiation; but it will require to be an honourable peace, for all the congressional speakers use that phrase.

There is a great movement of humanity going on in behalf of the starving poor of Ireland and Scotland. Already, a sum exceeding 40,000 dollars has been collected by the committees in New York, while in other cities and other states there are like efforts making. The purpose is to send out food and clothing in vessels, to different parts of Ireland and Scotland, for gratuitous distribution. There will be sent from the United States, by individual contributions, a sum, or the proceeds of a sum, exceeding probably a quarter of a million dollars. There is also a bill before Congress to appropriate half a million dollars to this sacred cause.

Of peace there seems no near prospect. On the contrary, the preparations are for continued war. According to the accounts from Vera Cruz the internal affairs of Mexico are in the worst possible condition. The financial resources were exhausted; and Vice-President Gomez Farias was driven to the expedient of seizing on fifteen millions of Church property to aid in meeting the expenses of the war. Public feeling, however, was against him on this point. Meanwhile, Santa Anna's army was in a miserable plight, and quite powerless



for want of resources. The invaders were in possession of the whole coast of the Gulf; but the blockade is represented as "a farce," vessels getting through every day. The attack on Vera Cruz will probably take place between the 10th and 20th of March.

#### GOVERNMENT EDUCATION SCHEME.

**GENERAL MEETING OF SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEACHERS ON GOVERNMENT EDUCATION.**—Last week, circulars were sent to the various Sunday-schools belonging to the Nonconformist body in this borough, inviting the attendance of two delegates from the teachers of each school, to a meeting on Tuesday evening last, in the School-room of Queen-street Chapel, to consider the Government scheme of education, and the propriety of holding a general meeting of Sunday-school teachers in this town. Upwards of sixty delegates were present, connected with the Independent, Baptist, Wesleyan, New Connexion, Wesleyan Association, and Primitive Methodist schools. Mr. E. Baines, jun., was invited to attend, and explained the nature and tendency of the Government plan. The meeting was also addressed by Messrs. Kearsley, J. G. Heaps, Parkin, Ianson, Nettleton, Morgan, Hickes, Slade, Wright, Knight, Rev. J. Peters, and others. Resolutions were passed unanimously, of which the third was as follows:—

3. That this meeting deems it to be the duty of Sabbath-school teachers to oppose by all legitimate means the measure now brought forward;—and the delegates now assembled, from schools of various denominations, are requested to engage their utmost efforts to secure the attendance of their teachers at a general meeting to be immediately convened, of those who are engaged in the work of Sabbath-school instruction, and to obtain their signatures to a general petition against the whole measure from the Sunday-school teachers of this town;—that application be made for Belgrave Chapel for the public meeting; and that the Rev. Dr. Hamilton be invited to take the chair.

We understand that the general meeting of teachers will be held early in the ensuing week.—*Leeds Mercury.*

**BRADFORD.**—The Rev. Walter Scott, president of Airedale College, delivered, on Tuesday evening, in the school-room belonging to the College Chapel, an interesting and well-seasoned lecture against the Government plan of Education, and the rev. lecturer not only dissected the Government plan, and pointed out the results which would follow from its adoption, but he contended that Government had no right to interfere in the education of the people. There was a good attendance of hearers, who seemed much gratified with the lecture. A petition from College Chapel congregation has been forwarded to Parliament against the measure. The well-known lecturer, Thomas Plint, Esq., of Leeds, delivered a lecture yesterday evening, in the Temperance-hall, against the Government measure. The congregation worshipping at Horton-lane Chapel have also forwarded a memorial to the Queen in Council, against the measure.—*Ibid.*

**SHEFFIELD.**—At Nether Chapel, on Monday evening, a meeting of the congregation was held, when the Rev. T. Smith and Mr. John W. Smith stated the objections which exist against the measure of Government Education, and a petition to Parliament was agreed to, praying Parliament not to sanction the Minutes of the Council. On the same evening, a similar meeting was held, with the like result, at Garden-street Chapel. On Thursday evening, a meeting, for a similar purpose, was held by the congregation of Queen-street Chapel. The Rev. J. H. Muir stated the objections to the measure. A number of resolutions, embodying principles of unflinching hostility to the measure, and also for affording pecuniary assistance to the general committee at Leeds, were unanimously passed, and a petition to Parliament against the measure adopted.—On Wednesday evening a meeting, numerously attended, was held in the school-room connected with Masbro' Chapel, to consider the Government plan of education, as developed in the Minutes of the Committee of Council. W. Beaton, Esq., occupied the chair, and the measure was explained by the Rev. W. H. Stowell, and Mr. J. W. Smith, of Sheffield, one of the deputies who recently went from the West Riding to urge upon the Government the objectionable character of the measure. A series of resolutions was carried, and a petition to Parliament against the measure proposed was adopted.—On Tuesday evening, a meeting of the Sheffield Sunday-school Union was held in Nether Chapel school-room, to consider the Government plan of education. The meeting was unanimous in condemning the unjust principles on which the measure is based and the unconstitutional mode in which it is proposed to be carried out. Resolutions were passed, recommending that every school should petition against the measure. In the course of the meeting, Mr. Sissons, one of the secretaries, gave an account of a visit he recently paid to Dr. Kay Shuttleworth's school, at Burnley.—Our readers will observe, that on Monday evening the Rev. R. S. Bayley will deliver a lecture at the Town Hall, on the Privy Council's plan of education. We have no doubt he will place in a very powerful light the objectionable character of the measure.—*Sheffield Independent.*

**NOTTINGHAM.**—"A numerously attended public meeting," says the *Nottingham Review*, "was held on Wednesday evening, in Stoney-street Chapel, to consider the system of State education, recently introduced into Parliament by the Marquis of Lansdowne. The ministers of most of the Dissenting places of worship in this town were present, and the subject seemed to excite great interest among a very respectable and intelligent audience." The Mayor (W. Cripps, Esq.) occupied the chair; and, in the course of his remarks, expressed himself in favour of national education, described its excellent effects in the United States, and hoped that they would consider the Government measure with a view rather to modify than destroy it. Mr. Gilbert, in a speech of great earnestness, analyzed and denounced the scheme of Government. He had long wished entirely to quit attending public meetings, from want of strength and health; he did not wish to find himself in any public meeting; but he declared to them, so immensely important was the question now brought before them,

that he should have been unable peaceably to die had he not discharged his duty in opposing this bill [hear]. He thought it a good one of the most momentous changes that ever transpired in this country. He concluded by proposing a resolution condemning the Government measure. Messrs. Hunter, M'All, and Ackenhams, of Bradford, expressed themselves opposed to all Government interference with education. A petition to Parliament against the scheme was adopted. The Chairman said he had received a communication from T. Gisborne, Esq., M.P., in answer to a letter, an extract from which he would read; it was to the following effect:—

As to the education grant, I never voted for one in my life, and, till I change my opinions, never shall. Most people abhor my doctrine, and consider me a barbarian, because I do not think it is the business of the Government to meddle with the education of the people; not that I do not value education as highly as any man does, but I do not believe that Government grants are an effectual way of promoting education. You may find European communities educated by what is called a paternal government, but the education neither civilizes nor moralizes them—it only makes them servile. In my mind, no education does people any good but what they work out for themselves; or, at all events, any assistance given must not be interference.

He (the Mayor) would, if requested, call a public meeting on the subject, for a further expression of public opinion [applause]. The suggestion is likely to be complied with. It was also resolved to adopt congressional petitions against the measure.—The *Nottingham Review* concludes an able article against the scheme by the following appeal:—

Dissenters of England, you are again summoned to the rescue of your principles from the clutch of ecclesiastical usurpation! Your faith, your children's minds, your schools, your temples—all, all are in danger—jeopardized by the shameful servility of the present Government to the clerical rapacity and intolerance of the present age! We implore you to be up and stirring! Petition! Remonstrate! Warn!

**STOURBRIDGE.**—A highly respectable and numerously attended meeting was held March 9th, in the British school-room, Stourbridge, in opposition to the above measure of Government. Mr. Shobotham, of Kidderminster, Independent minister, Mr. Dyer, of West-bromwich, Mr. Parsons, of Brierley-hill, and Mr. Has-sack, of Stourbridge, took part in the proceedings of the meeting. The chair was taken by Mr. James Richards, of Stourbridge. Resolutions deprecating the right of Government to educate the people, were proposed, seconded, and carried, with one exception, unanimously.

**THE MOVEMENT IN THE NORTH.**—The Wesleyan Association in this district is taking up the opposition to the Government scheme of education with spirit; so are the Independents. Numerous petitions will go up to Parliament from these bodies against the measure. The Sunday-school teachers in St. James's (Independent) Chapel, in Newcastle, with others of the town, are petitioning. The *Newcastle Guardian*, representing the Dissenters of the Vaughan school, is writing strongly against the measure. The *Sunderland Herald*, an organ of the liberal Conference Methodists, although rather favourable to a scheme of national education, pronounces the Government measure fraught with mischief, inasmuch as it gives a power to the State-church which is unfair and detrimental to Dissent. The *Gateshead Observer*, conducted by a gentleman a member of the Unitarian church, in an article headed "Much Ado about Nothing," sneers at the opposition created by the Dissenters. The Friends at Darlington are decidedly opposed to the measure.—*From a Correspondent.*

**THE EAST LONDON MOVEMENT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT EDUCATION SCHEME.**—The meeting at the Eastern Institution, on Monday week, is to be followed up by a series of sectional meetings throughout the East of London, so that no parties may be left uninformed as to the nature and tendency of the measure. The first of these was held at the Adelphi Chapel, Hackney-road, last night, when as many as a thousand persons were present. George Owen, Esq., a magistrate for the county, presided, and, in an energetic speech, insisted on the inconsistency of those Dissenters who would permit the State to give religious instruction to the rising race, but denied their right to impart it to adults. Mr. W. Woodhouse, the minister of the place, moved a resolution stating the objections to the measure. He denied to Government the right of moulding the national mind, and had no sympathy with Lord Lansdowne in his admiration of the results of Austrian despotism. E. Clark, Esq., followed, asserting the sufficiency of the voluntary principle. If he dreaded one thing more than another, it was the spirit of centralization. They had a centralized police, a centralized poor-law, and now they were to have centralized education. Were they to do nothing for themselves but to sit with folded arms while the state usurped their own functions? Mr. Wm. Tyley, minister of Mile-End New Town, supported the resolution, and said he believed the scheme to be the working of the same principle which was rendering education compulsory in Trinidad, and was forcing Bishops on all our Colonies. Mr. Josiah Viney, of Bethnal Green, ably introduced a resolution condemnatory of Government interference in education, either secular or religious, which was seconded by Mr. J. Granville, who remarked upon the enforcement of religious instruction provided for in the Minutes. Dr. Carlile moved a resolution, adopting a petition against educational grants, and praying for the abolition of the Committee of Council. John Dunn, Esq., in seconding it, alluded to the ridiculously false statement in last night's *Standard*, that what it was pleased to call the Dissenters, agitators, had always been the implacable enemies of general education. Meetings will be held to-night at Brunswick Chapel, Mile End, and on Friday at Old Ford Chapel.

**THE "ECONOMIST" ON STATE EDUCATION.**—We have great pleasure in extracting the following short passage from an able article in the *Economist*, of Saturday, in opposition to State interference with education, only regretting that we cannot copy the whole. Our contemporary was, if we recollect rightly, at one time, an advocate of State education, but the legitimate application of his own principles have brought him to the following conclusions:—

According to our views, the industrial education of the bread-winning classes is the most essential, and this they must and do provide for themselves. Next comes their moral and religious education, which they are quite willing to pay for and provide for themselves, as we learn from the success of the Free Church in Scotland, the prevalence of voluntarism all over the country, though the people have the State-church and the State burden to support, the maintenance of the Catholic clergy in Ireland, and the foundation and maintenance of mechanics' institutes all over the country. Now, when there is this disposition in the people to

provide for themselves—when it is now plainly and palpably apparent that whatever the people do for themselves is comparatively well done, while everything the State pretends to do for them is comparatively very ill, very ineffectually, and very unsuccessfully done, it seems to us a work of perfect supererogation in the State to interfere with what may be called the mere minor accessories to a necessary education. Like all supererogatory labours, it is at the same time mischievous. It degrades education, and it makes the people look to the State instead of relying on themselves. Entertaining, on these good free-trade principles, as we think, well-founded objections to all interference of the State, whether it be called assistance and encouragement, or compulsory rates,—believing that it is even preposterous for those who have in their vocation been remarkable only for failures, to pretend to provide for and teach those who, in their vocation, have been as remarkable for their success,—we shall not enter into the particular provisions of the Privy Council Minute. We know that it excites hostility, we believe it to be on principle erroneous, and we therefore hope, when it comes to be discussed in the House of Commons, that it may be rejected.

**THE GENERAL FAST.—A GOOD SUGGESTION.**—A correspondent suggests that the day appointed for a national fast, the 24th inst., should be set apart to holding public meetings throughout the country, in opposition to the educational scheme of Ministers.

**THE MOVEMENT IN THE METROPOLIS.**—Few persons unacquainted with the details of agitation are aware of the vast amount of toil and perseverance entailed upon the few persons who are willing to work. This is especially the case with the Central Committee. Their work is unlimited—circumscribed only by their means. What they have done is, to some extent, known to our readers—what they intend to do, must depend upon their means. They have not only to consult about and adopt measures for arousing the metropolis, but for the whole country. We trust, therefore, they will be well supported with the sinews of war. The present contest, in order to be successful, demands some sacrifices. And surely, if gentlemen engaged in business are willing to give up, to their own serious inconvenience, a portion of their time daily for the common good, Dissenters, and the friends of civil and religious freedom generally, will not be backward in emulating this example by giving of their time or substance, for the defeat of this flagrant scheme. An appeal for pecuniary aid will be found elsewhere, and we can assure our readers that their contributions will be most usefully applied.—On Monday night, Mr. Morris, Independent minister, delivered a lecture on the education scheme at Holloway Chapel. Last night there was a free discussion at the Weigh-house Chapel, preliminary to further steps. This evening there is to be a meeting at Brunswick Chapel, Mile End-road; on Friday, at the Baptist Chapel, Old Ford, Bow; and on the same evening a great meeting at Finsbury Chapel (convened by the Central Committee), with a special reference to the bearing of the measure on Sunday-schools. In the south of London various district meetings are in progress.—It will also be seen, that the Board of Baptist Ministers have adopted a series of decided resolutions in opposition to the Government measure.

**THE WORKING CLASSES AND THE GOVERNMENT EDUCATION SCHEME.**—At a meeting of the working classes of Leeds, on Thursday, a resolution was adopted in favour of a system of secular state education, and giving a qualified approval to the project of Ministers. We have also been informed that a similar meeting is likely to be held at the Eastern Institution. Doubtless the clergy will see fit to encourage this auxiliary movement. But we are glad to find that measures are in progress (in London at least) likely to counteract them. To-morrow evening, a meeting is to be held at the British School-room, Green-man's-lane, Lower-road, Islington, when several gentlemen will attend with the special object of showing how the measure will affect the working classes; and, we believe, it is in contemplation to hold a meeting in some central part of London for the same purpose. We are sure there is nothing to be feared from free and fair discussion.

**MEETING AT IPSWICH.**—On Friday evening, a meeting was held in Ipswich (Mr. Whitby's Chapel), presided over by John Biddle Alexander, Esq., a member of the Society of Friends. The Minutes of Council were expounded at great length; and the meeting was afterwards addressed by Messrs. Notcutt, Whitby, and Webb, and by Mr. Lacy and William Henry Alexander, Esq., also a member of the Society of Friends. Everything was harmonious, and the decision of the meeting was unequivocal: no Government interference with education. The resolutions were to be signed by the Chairman, and to be forwarded to Lord John Russell.

**THE MOVEMENT IN ESSEX.**—In a letter to the Editor of the *Patriot*, Mr. Ainslie, Secretary to the Congregational Board of Education, says:—"Great efforts will be made to have the Order of Council appointing the Committee revoked: preparations are being made for the coming election, and everywhere I find a solemn determination to vote for no candidate who will not pledge himself to vote against all grants of money for religion and education: and the Church has done nothing for some years past likely to inflict upon herself so heavy a blow as sanctioning this measure."

**EXTENSION OF THE SCHEME.**—In a letter to Mr. Salter, Secretary of the Manchester British Teachers' Association, Mr. Kay Shuttleworth says:—

I am authorized to inform you, that the Committee of Council on Education will cause regulations to be framed for the purpose of defining the conditions upon which masters or mistresses of schools, under their lordships' inspection, who have not passed through a course of training in a Normal school, may be admitted to an examination for three classes of certificates, to correspond with those which are to be granted in Normal schools.

Masters and mistresses who have not received such training, but who may, upon this examination, obtain certificates, will thus enjoy the augmentation of salary proposed to be granted, according to their lordships' Minutes of August and December last, to teachers who shall have procured certificates of merit.

The *Patriot* mentions a report "that has reached us from the highest authority," that three more inspectors are about to be appointed. From this it is pretty evident that Ministers have no present intention of abandoning their scheme.

An address to Lord John Russell is in the course of signature amongst his City constituents, in which the memorialists pledge themselves to withdraw their support from his lordship at the next election, if the education plan is persisted in.

**RISCA, MONMOUTHSHIRE.**—Mr. B. Lewis, late of Llanfabon, has taken the oversight of the Independent church recently formed in this locality.

#### CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Pears	Flour.
English ....	3570	560	780			
Scotch .....						
Irish .....			7030			
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Wheat is fully as dear, owing to the French demand; but maize is 5s. to 6s. cheaper.



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\* All communications to the Editor should be addressed to the office, 3, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A. R. H." The subject suggested by him has been largely discussed in our series of articles on the Voluntary Principle.

"A Constant Reader." His letter on the General Fast would have been most acceptable but for a suggestion which, being utterly impracticable, spoils the effect of all his reasoning.

The letter from Barnstable is in type, but excluded for want of room.

Communications from Manchester and Edinburgh gratefully received.

WE beg to inform such of our readers as may be desirous of circulating the Report of the Church and State Discussion at Liverpool, that they may be supplied with the same direct from the Office at Threepence per copy.

## The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1847.

#### SUMMARY.

THE agitation against the educational project embodied in the Lansdowne Minutes goes on bravely. We have given, in another column, a full summary of what has been said and done in reference to the Ministerial scheme. We may confine ourselves, therefore, pretty much, in this place, to the short conversation which took place in the House of Lords on Monday night, on this subject, originated by Lord Brougham. His lordship took occasion, upon the presentation of a petition against the measure, to deliver his judgment upon the opposition now offered by Dissenters; which opposition he characterized as most unreasonable and absurd. He wished, for his part, more interference on the part of the Church, rather than less; and he justified that wish by reference to his own bill of 1821, which gave to every parish clergyman a veto on the appointment of a schoolmaster. Lord Lansdowne, too, availed himself of an unguarded mode of expression in a letter which had been made public—praised up the scheme as strictly impartial, and declared that its advantages were studiously thrown open to all sects. It is both curious and humiliating to see men stand up in the face of the opposition of thousands, and, in quiet conversation one with another, attempt to hoodwink those thousands as to their real object. The scheme is open to all! Yes! just in the same sense as a feast of pork, provided at the general cost, would be open to all members of a community consisting of about equal proportions of Christians and Jews. "Why complain," ask these statesmen, "of our favouring one sect at the expense of another? The pork we offer is good, and Jews may have it as well as Christians." "Yes," reply the Jews, "we are quite aware of that, but you know as well as we that we do not eat pork, and that we cannot avail ourselves of your proffered bounty. Meanwhile, we have to pay for the pork which others can and will eat." "Well," respond the oracles of the House of Lords, "your scruples are affairs of your own. There is pork for you, if you will have it. If not, let no unfounded jealousy prevent our giving it to others." This is a plain and familiar illustration of the impartiality of the Minutes of Council. As to Lord Brougham, it is vain for him to refer us for satisfaction to the opinion he held in 1821. Such an authority is, no doubt, decisive for himself, but there are a great many people indeed in these realms who do not believe his lordship to be inspired—who have no faith in his infallibility—and who, even if they were resolved to abide by his judgment, would be puzzled to find a single judgment of his which he has not himself triumphantly overthrown.

It is our duty to announce to our readers, and we take this opportunity of fulfilling it, that the trial of the case *Gathercole v. Miall*, which we had anticipated would come off at Bury at the ensuing spring assizes, will not then take place. The plaintiff has abstained from giving the requisite notice, and the ample preparations of the defendant are consequently, for the present, unavailing. This does not, necessarily, put an end to the suit. Mr. Gathercole may yet proceed, or, failing in that, may be ruled to give peremptory notice, and to bring his action into court.

The questions discussed in Parliament during the past week, have related mainly to the state of Ireland. An adjourned debate on Mr. Hume's resolutions touching the occupation of Cracow was the only considerable exception. That debate was chiefly remarkable for a bold declaration by Lord G. Bentinck of sympathy with the three northern powers in their seceding proceedings. In other respects it presented no features of novelty, unless the speech of Sir W. Molesworth, who objected to the resolutions, can be regarded as one. Sir R. Peel supported Ministers, and enforced the obligation of Great Britain to adhere to the treaties into which she had entered, whatever might be the conduct of other contracting powers. The debate, much to the annoyance of Ministers, was again adjourned.

On Friday night Lord John Russell, on moving the order of the day for going into committee on the Poor Relief (Ireland) Bill, made a lucid statement of the present position of that unhappy country—the measures which had already been adopted by the Government—and the provisions of the bill, the details of which he was then about to submit to a Committee of the House. He insisted upon the necessity of giving such relief for the destitute when the workhouse is full, as is given in England, under the check of a labour test; and he defended the clause increasing the number of *ex officio* guardians. The effect of the measure will be to throw upon the landlords of Ireland the maintenance of the destitute able-bodied poor. This, of course, is strenuously resisted by the Irish party. But their opposition will probably prove unsuccessful. After two nights' debate, the dreariness of which was enlivened here and there only by an able speech or an honest one, the bill went into committee *pro forma*, without a division. We had hoped to have pointed out to our readers this week the one great object at which Irish measures, in our judgment, should aim, and to have examined in what respects the Ministerial plans come short of that object; but the pressure of other topics, more immediately urgent, has set aside our intention. We trust, however, that we shall be able next week to give a calm and deliberate expression to our views.

#### THE GOVERNMENT SCHEME OF EDUCATION.

TO THE WORKING MEN OF GREAT BRITAIN.

FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN,

FROM every party who proffers you advice on your affairs, you have the unquestionable right of demanding proof of sympathy with you in your interests. Counsellors you will never lack, until you have learnt to test their professions of friendship. We are not afraid to invite the application of that test to ourselves. We laboured to serve you when our service was deemed valuable. We gave you our hearty and persevering aid, when most of those who now cress you haughtily resisted and resented your just claims. We demanded for you, not in the language of passionate declamation, but of calm, and, hitherto, unanswered argument, an equality with the enfranchised classes, of political rights. We did so, for some time single-handed, at no time without serious risk, in all times on principle. On this conduct we found a reasonable expectation, that you will receive what we have to say as coming from a friendly heart.

The Minutes of Council on the subject of education are before you. They hold out to you a prospect which, if it did not attract your most earnest attention, would be referred to by your calumniators as another illustration of the possibility of "casting pearls before swine." You are dazzled by it, as well you may be—and the hope which it has kindled in your bosoms gives the lie to the oft-repeated insinuation, that you do not prize education when it is put within your reach. Sternly opposed as we are to the Ministerial plan, we can yet do honour to your willingness to adopt it. It betokens on your part a sense of want—a disposition to accept even imperfect aid—and a desire for intellectual improvement so strong as to overpower all your political antipathies. The bias you have shown towards the adoption of the Lansdowne project indicates your thirst for the blessing of a sound and useful education.

The Government plan offers to you means towards that end. The question we wish to discuss with you is simply this—Are the means likely to secure the end? We shall not propound the views we hold respecting the legitimate province of civil government; much less shall we trouble you with considerations suggested by, or terminating in, sectarianism. Will the practical application of the Minutes of Council put you, the working classes, into a more commanding position?—enable you with greater ease and certainty to right yourselves?—furnish you with weapons which, whenever possessed, will fit you to dictate terms of justice to those who now unhesitatingly and scornfully reject them? This is an inquiry to which it behoves you to address your thoughts with manly impartiality. Towards the solution of this problem the following remarks are offered, as contributions elicited by deep concern for your future well-being.

You take into your hands a piece of ingenious and complex machinery. You wish to ascertain precisely what it will do. What method of inquiry does common-sense suggest, as most likely to result in a successful issue? Of course, the safest, under ordinary circumstances, is to try it—to test its powers by experience; but, if the trial involves great hazard, and binds you, moreover, to abide permanently by the result, whether profitable or pernicious, you must content yourselves with mere presumptive considerations. In such case, you will endeavour to find out the design of the inventor in the construction of his machine—because you have strong reason to infer that its parts are all adjusted with a view to accomplish that design. He, it is true, may have overlooked some important law, which, although embodied in his device, may be turned to accounts which he did not contemplate. You have then to satisfy yourselves as to three points—First, what this mechanism was originally put together to do; Secondly, how far the contrivances it exhibits are fitted to secure the inventor's object; Lastly, what element has he unconsciously introduced which will enable you to work the machinery for purposes just the reverse of those which he desired.

Now the educational scheme before you, was concocted by the Whig Government, under the pressure of High Church influence, and was hailed by the established hierarchy with acclaiming approval. What, think you, is the real intention of these parties? Your elevation in the social and political scale? The enlargement of your liberties? The bestowal upon you of your rights of citizenship? The fostering, in you, of a spirit of self-reliance? The better protection of your independence? Are these, suppose you, the real purposes of the Whig aristocracy, or of Tory ecclesiastics? What says your own experience in reply to these questions? Have you found these parties forward in advancing your interests? Thousands of you are arbitrarily and vexatiously defrauded of your political rights by the operation of the rate-paying clauses of the Reform Act. It was proposed, the other day, by Mr. Duncombe to repeal those clauses. Who resisted him? Who refused to make even this trivial addition to your means of political power? The very men who devised these Minutes of Council. If it be suggested, in explanation of their reluctance, that they are ready to give to education what they withhold from ignorance, the question instantly occurs, Why have they never proposed an educational, in the place of a pecuniary, franchise? We conclude, then, for we must be brief, that the scheme before you was not concocted with a view to the ultimate concession to you of your political rights. Nothing hitherto done by the Whig aristocracy, or by the bench of bishops, has indicated any earnestness of desire to better your position as citizens, or to cherish your independence as men. Reason bids us look out for some other object as having influenced them in framing this insidious measure.

Look, now, at the scheme itself. Scrutinize its parts. Compute its several adaptations and tendencies. Examine the action of each wheel, lever, spring, pulley—and see the relation which every part has to one end—an enormous increase of Government patronage. Your education at the partial expense of the State is their professed purpose! Supposing this, for the sake of argument, to be the legitimate business of the State, how easy had it been to give to every parish power to raise and to apply a rate for educational purposes. But this would not have given your rulers an additional hold upon the working men. Their plan, consequently, is far more elaborate—vastly more artful. The Committee of Council get into their hands no small amount of public funds, and propose to distribute this by means of paid inspectors, appointed by themselves. These inspectors are to recommend an increase of salary, or a retiring pension, or the privilege of employing and receiving payment for monitors and apprentices, to such schoolmasters as they may deem deserving. Now, what effect will this have upon the position of the instructors of your children? All their prospects for life being dependent upon the extension and continuance to them of Government aid, do you really imagine they will strive to infuse into the hearts of your offspring a love for the principles embodied in the People's Charter, or, indeed, a sympathy with popular rights of any kind? Can you expect this of them? Their very subsistence hangs on the breath of the inspector, and, in the vast majority of cases, the concurrent approval of the parish clergyman. Well! now, do you really hope that so far as the action of the State-school is concerned, your views and principles will be promoted?

No! you reply, but we ourselves can do that sufficiently at home. Not quite so fast! Doubtless your influence over your children's minds will be considerable, but what if it comes in competition with brilliant worldly prospects? Why should not your son become a stipendiary monitor? Why should he not aspire to the profession of schoolmaster? Why may he not hope for future employment in the Customs or Excise? He has average abilities. He might secure, by due attention and subservience, the notice of the clergyman and inspector. But if he really attempts this, one thing is certain, he will not discover his interest to run parallel with an attachment to the Charter. Now look you! Precisely the same temptation which will probably warp either the judgment, or the honesty, of one poor man's son, will be equally potent to warp those of all. What will become, then, of your hope of political enfranchisement? the elevation of the working man in the social scale? the amelioration of your hard lot? the enlargement of your liberties? Why, before twenty years are gone over your heads, the mind of the people, acted upon by the enchanting spell of Government bribes, will be averse to any increase of popular rights, and will give in its adhesion to the old cry, "Church and King for ever." This is the object which the propounders of this scheme have in view—and this, it is most sagaciously contrived to accomplish.

But, then, you have an unbounded faith in the power of education, and a conviction that whatever the Whigs and the Church design by it, you may make it answer your own purposes. Now remember—the schools are not open for you, but for your children. With your strength of conviction, you might easily extract the good, and leave the evil. But childhood is unequal to this contest with designing men. Slavish maxims are as easily impressed upon youthful hearts, as a knowledge of letters is communicated to their minds. Our views, moreover, of truth and justice, are always more or less tinged by our ideas of our selfish interests. The children of the middle classes are educated. Why do they not turn their advantages to account? Do they usually rise above the level of their early instructions?



Be advised! Pause and reflect before you invoke a rider! The bit once in your mouths, you may resign all hopes of freedom. No party will achieve for you the independence which you cannot achieve for yourselves. Keep the judgment, will, character, of the next generation, so far as men can keep it, within your own power. The State means you no advantage. Trust not to appearances. The Bishops of London and Exeter, Lord John Russell, and Sir Robert Peel, know how little risk they run in offering to teach your offspring. They are far-seeing and sagacious enough. Your simplicity will prove no match for their craft. Rely only upon yourselves! How often have you been misled to your undoing! There is profound truth in the poetic line, which you might do wisely to ponder—

"Who would be free, himself must strike the blow."

#### THE VESTED RIGHT OF SOCIETY IN HANGING.

THE debate on Mr. Ewart's annual motion for the abolition of capital punishments, and the division which concluded it, leave society undisturbed in its vested right of "hanging by the neck until they are dead," flagitious criminals. It was assumed, of course, that society will not resign its powers, if it can keep them—that it insists upon retaining ancient privileges, all barbaric as they are, and that the doing away with death-punishments altogether, would give a dangerous shock to public sentiment. The compliment thus paid to opinion out of doors may be deserved or not—but it is curious that Ministers seldom consult that opinion save in support of laws which they cannot defend by argument. Such, assuredly, was the case in the present instance. The Home Secretary had nothing to urge in defence of his Conservative position which had not been once and again refuted, and so he tried to shield himself behind the public will, and to throw upon the majority of the people a responsibility which his own reasoning was inadequate to sustain. It is for society to relieve itself of this imputation. It has spoken as yet in whispers only, and Government is deaf to anything below the pitch of thunder. Sir George Grey practically advises a more strenuous agitation—a greater number of petitions—a sterner tone of remonstrance. Until it has roused itself, it will be made a packhorse to carry on its strong back the sins of the Cabinet and the Legislature.

How strange it is, that the principle which conducts to the abolition of transportation as a punishment, does not also lead to the cessation of hanging! The end of punishment, we are told by Earl Grey, is the safety of society, secured by deterring the viciously-disposed from crime, and the reformation and restoration of the offender. True! but how is this end answered by the infliction of death? The terror which it is supposed to excite is proved to be unequal to the prevention of crime when once the passions are roused to commit it. All experience is against the argument founded upon the deterring force of terror. When death was inflicted for trivial offences, the fear of death did not operate to check trivial offenders. Men seldom calculate future probabilities when the means of gratifying imperious passions are immediately at hand. The drunkard foresees his certain doom, but he perseveres in his drinking. The libertine knows the wretchedness which awaits him, but he stays not in his career of vice. Thousands of acts are done almost daily, the penalties of which, to those who commit them, are more dreadful than the loss of life itself. Passion does not reason, but flies to the means of indulgence. And if this be so in lesser offences, how much more in murder! He who has braved himself against the reproaches of conscience, the dictates of natural feeling, and the execration of mankind, is already under an impulse which no chances of a future strangulation can control. The terror which you would make the safeguard of society has already ceased to act. To the man contemplating murder it is a nullity.

The strong practical argument against the retention of extreme punishment, and of which Mr. Ewart made good use, is the reluctance of juries to convict. They feel their awful responsibility when life or death is suspended upon their verdict. They know how possible it is to be misled by circumstantial evidence, however apparently cogent and complete. They are conscious that mistake on their part entails on a fellow-man irreparable mischief. They cannot recall the dead. They cannot efface his sentence by tears of penitential anguish. All this presses upon them. They anxiously scrutinize the remotest probabilities of innocence—magnify their own liability to err—swell into mountains the most insignificant difficulties—and rather seek to give a verdict *if they can*, than a verdict *as they ought*. The law, consequently, becomes comparatively inoperative. The chances of escape are so numerous, that the most atrocious criminals are the most likely to be turned loose again upon society. Extreme severity defeats its own object.

On the religious argument put forward by Sir R. Inglis, we cannot now enter. But we must express our surprise that he who refuses to abolish capital punishment in professed deference to the Divine law, "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed," is not equally ready to repudiate all war, and summarily execute vengeance on every soldier, in deference to our Lord's express declaration, "They that take the sword shall perish by the sword."

#### THREATENED REVIVAL OF THE SLAVE TRADE.

(From the *Anti-Slavery Reporter*.)

It will be seen in the reply of Mr. Hawes to Mr. Barkly, in the House of Commons, on the 19th ult., that the Government have determined to open the Kroo Coast, West Africa, to the planters of the British colonies. This, we hesitate not to say, is the beginning of a new slave-trade. The Under-Secretary for the Colonies assured the House of Commons that the people in the Kroo country were free. We beg to deny this, and challenge the proof. The Kroomen are under the authority of their chiefs, or head men, and dare not act independently of them. We have now before us the "Report of the Select Committee on the West Coast of Africa," from which it is quite clear that the Kroomen are in a state of bondage. They cannot ship themselves on board a vessel without ; ermission of the head-men, who must receive, "in advance, two months' wages," and on their return "this head-man takes their earnings, as an equivalent, probably, for the debts of the family."

Two Kroomen were examined before the West African committee on the subject of the emigration of their countrymen to the West Indies. They said, that "if the King has a small dash, or present, he will then consent to let the people go." But if they did not like to go, "he would make them like to go." These are the free Kroomen who are to be invited to go to British Guiana to cultivate its sugar fields; and the Government have undertaken to employ one of H.M. ships of war, the Scourge steamer, for the purpose of transporting them thither, during the next twelve months, "by way of experiment."

We beg to call the serious attention of our countrymen to this point, and to inform them, that one of the reasons for employing a Government vessel in this transaction is, that these Kroomen may be conveyed to the colonies without any expense to the planters, under the plea of giving the poor Africans "a free passage;" and that this is the beginning of a system for transferring the burden of an expensive system of immigration to the West Indies, from the shoulders of those who ought to bear it to those of the people of this country.

We see, however, a new form of the slave-trade likely to spring out of this most uncalled-for and unhappy experiment. What is to hinder the Spanish and Brazilian Governments, or indeed any Government, which has their colonies or territories, from following the bad example of repaireing to the coast of Africa for nominally free men, for the purpose of making them slaves? We defy the Government to find an answer to this question, unless, indeed, it be that the exigencies of free-trade require it. We know that many who have the ear of Government at present, are as anxious for a free-trade in men, as the noble lord at the head of the Colonial Office, is for a free-trade in produce, whether raised by freemen or slaves; but we trust our countrymen are not yet disposed to revive the slave-trade, or to allow others to do it with impunity.

#### PROSPECTS OF BRITISH TRADE.

(From *Jerrold's Newspaper*.)

Our private advices from Manchester represent that great seat of manufacturing industry as in a state of stagnation. Many mills are closed, many are on the eve of being closed, and nearly all are working short time. In fancy articles alone is there any briskness of trade. The streets are swarming with beggars, and, paradoxical as it may seem, the very people whose labour has crammed the warehouses with clothing are walking about at this inclement season scantily clad, and are destitute of decent bedding in their damp cellars. Foreigners are beginning to supply their own wants, and are declining to purchase from us, in proof of which it appears that the exports of 1846, as compared with the exports of 1845, have fallen off to the extent of £2,018,291; and as foreigners improve their own manufacturing processes, we may be sure that our exports will progressively decline. As one example of this change in the course of trade, we may mention that the first bar of American railroad iron was made in 1844; but now our transatlantic brethren possess sixteen or eighteen mills, which enable them to manufacture at the rate of 120,000 tons per annum, a quantity sufficient for 1,200 miles per annum.

Concurrently with the diminution of our exports is the increase of our imports. Comparing 1846 with 1845, there is an increase of imports to the tune of £695,937. The City editor of the *Times* remarked, on Wednesday last, that all our stocks are low, specially enumerating coffee, sugar, and rice, as also hemp, flax, and cotton; and of this last most important article he tells us that the stock on the 1st of January last, as compared with that of the preceding year, is only 545,790 against 1,060,560 bales. His conclusion is that we are not only poorer by all the stock we have thus consumed, but also by the three millions and a half of bullion of which we have recently been drained; and he winds up his panic article by most gravely announcing that "this process cannot go on any longer."

THE RATE-PAYING CLAUSES OF THE REFORM BILL.—At a meeting of the electors of West Hackney, held on Monday night, at the Tyson Arms, Dalston, John Matheson, Esq., in the chair, the following resolution was adopted:—"That this meeting thinks it necessary strongly to remonstrate with General Fox on his vote against Mr. Duncombe's motion for the repeal of the rate-paying clause of the Reform Act—a clause by which thousands of their honest and industrious neighbours are deprived of the elective franchise, and do hereby convey to him their opinion that every opportunity ought to be embraced by their representatives to greatly extend the number of electors." A resolution, disapproving of the absence of Sir William Clay from his place in Parliament on the occasion in question, was then duly proposed, seconded, and unanimously adopted; and the chairman was requested to convey both to the respective members.

#### PROGRESS OF THE AGITATION

AGAINST THE

#### GOVERNMENT SCHEME OF EDUCATION.

The reports, which will be found below, necessarily brief as they are, will give some idea of the energy and extent of the agitation already set on foot against the insidious plan of education contained in the Minutes of the Committee of Privy Council. During the past week, public meetings have been held at Leicester, Nottingham, Norwich, Liverpool, Southampton, Oldham, Doncaster, and other provincial towns. In the Metropolis, meetings are held almost every evening. In the counties of Essex and Suffolk a vigorous movement has commenced, which receives the cordial co-operation of the influential members of the Society of Friends, and has induced many parties who have hitherto received aid from Government for educational purposes to resolve to "send back the money." Throughout Yorkshire the opponents of the measure are exerting themselves to the utmost; and, besides the meetings held last week at Leeds, a town's-meeting is convened for this day, at which a fair discussion is to be taken, not simply on the plan now before the country, but on the principle of Government interference. One pleasing feature of the present agitation is, the care taken to diffuse correct information on the nature and bearings of the scheme, and not to hurry Dissenters into opposition to a measure which they do not understand. In Manchester, Dr. Vaughan and other ministers are delivering lectures to their congregations, and similar means to enlighten the public are being adopted in the Metropolis and Yorkshire.

We are rejoiced also to observe that there are symptoms of activity among the voluntaries of Scotland. The Scottish Board of Dissenters, at a special meeting, have passed a series of resolutions strongly condemnatory of the Government scheme. A public meeting has also been resolved on, to which Mr. Edward Baines, jun., Dr. Wardlaw, Dr. Young, Dr. Alexander, and others, have been invited. We observe nothing in the Minutes of Council which will prevent the scheme being introduced into the northern part of the kingdom, and, assuredly, if carried into effect, Ministers will speedily find means of placing the education of the Dissenters of Scotland as well as England under the control of State functionaries and the State-paid clergy. What part the Free Church will take in the commencing struggle appears at present uncertain. Like the Wesleyans, they are deliberating. Probably, however, in the one case, as in the other, the laity will not wait for the decision of their leaders. The *Witness* imagines that the contest between State educationists and the Voluntaries is a hopeless struggle on the part of the latter. "At farthest, in the course of a session or two," says our contemporary, "England, and we believe Scotland also, will, like Prussia and Holland, possess a Government scheme of education." Are we then to conclude, that opposition is useless, and that the Free Church will adopt the plan of making the best bargain they can with the Government? We are loath to imagine that the most notorious foes to the endowment of Popery should listen, for one moment, to any compromise in respect to a measure which aims at giving aid to all creeds and all denominations. The *Belfast Banner*, the organ of the Irish Presbyterians, will assist "not to destroy a scheme that really has many noble elements, but to convert it from an unjust and partial to an equitable and fair measure, in which one Dissenter shall weigh against one Churchman, and one Dissenter's chapel be considered equivalent for a church and spire." This is equivocal enough; but it must not be forgotten, that the Irish Presbyterians are already in receipt of State pay.

The Liberal provincial journals are awakening to a sense of the manifest injustice of this flagrant scheme, and, although for the most part favourable to the principle of national education, almost unanimously condemn Lord Lansdowne's plan, and consider it too flagrant an outrage on civil and religious liberty to be capable of amendment. Thus the *Liverpool Mercury*, a strenuous supporter of State education, declares, "Any more indifference to it [the scheme] no longer exists. We are opposed to it, as it stands; we hope and trust it will be defeated; it is too much of a sectarian measure, throwing all the advantages of influence to be derived from the management of the national education, into the hands of one already dominant party—the clergy and political adherents of the Established Church." With the whole body of Dissenters, and the great bulk of the organs of that party of which he was once considered to be the head, united in opposition to the measure, will Lord John Russell venture to persevere? Does he imagine that the *Times*, *Daily News*, the *Sun*, the *Inquirer*, and the *Coventry Herald* (the last being the only country paper we have seen which



heartily supports the measure) represent the opinions of the nation?

Perhaps the Whig Government expects a strenuous and undivided support from the Church party, who receive the lion's share of the spoil. Let us see. Thus writes the *Church and State Gazette* of Friday: "We exhort every Churchman to reject a wolf that comes amongst them so insidiously and treacherously clothed, as is this worthless attempt to undermine the strength and position of the Church of Christ." After condemning in the strongest language the great feature of this scheme, which "sanctions falsehood as well as truth," and "teaches heresy as well as orthodoxy," the writer concludes:—

"Better that truth, unaided and unassisted, lift up her voice of wisdom and condemn her adversaries than accept so shameful a covenant and so insidious a scheme, which, while it makes a show of advantage, like ardent spirits to the drunkard, eventually undermines the health of the constitution. Awful, indeed, was the malignant spirit that, in the exuberance of its malice, belched forth this scheme to light. If the Dissenters reject it they lose their schools—if they accept it they lose their character: if the Church rejects it she will lose much strength—if she accepts it she is voluntarily supporting Deism or Romanism. What then must be done? We advise to pull down the committee that has impudently made itself ruler over us, and give it its 'quietus with a bare bodkin.' Pluck down this arrogant tribunal of Whig latitudinarianism, self-erected and self-constituted; or, in addition to the many national afflictions under which we at present labour, the Great Eternal may have to punish us for the desertion of Christianity and the encouragement of blasphemous heresy."

The *Record*, the organ of the evangelical section of the Established Church—the party who are the grand promoters of the Evangelical Alliance—is by no means so decided as his contemporary. The *Record* is in a dilemma. On the one side are the immense influence and patronage thrown into the hands of the clergy—on the other "the false principle which is more and more creeping into use among us, that it is lawful and expedient to endow and support all kinds and descriptions of religious belief; a principle which ought, in this, as well as in every other form in which it may appear, to meet with the determined opposition of every one who draws his religion from Scripture, and not from the vain traditions and prevailing fancies of men." Our contemporary confesses that "the obvious purpose of its framers is, to operate by and through the machinery of the Church, so far as that can be rendered available; without, however, excluding Dissenters from a fair participation," but "if the Government insist on proceeding to teach Popery and Socinianism by means of the NATIONAL funds, we trust an outcry will be raised against it adequate to the extinction of the unworthy and most anti-Christian proceeding." The *Record* would be content with the measure if, relative to all schools aided by Government, the Minute were made to run as follows:—"The daily reading of suitable portions of the Bible according to the authorized version, forming part of such instruction. Such a simple alteration as we have specified" (he concludes) "would probably meet the merits of the case, and give us as much security as we can hope to attain in the present anomalous state of the question."

At present the Wesleyan leaders have made no sign. The Committee of Privileges still deliberates. Yesterday there was to be a meeting of the leading members of the body in London, to decide on the course to be adopted. What that determination is, we are not yet informed. From all that we can gather, it is likely to result in a vigorous opposition to the Government measure. Many gentlemen, says the *Patriot*, will be present from the North, to protest strongly against it; and, as but very few Wesleyan schools (not more, we believe, than four or five) have hitherto received public money, and as opinion in the highest Wesleyan quarters is well understood to be decidedly adverse to the proposed plan, there can be but little doubt of a satisfactory result.

The opinions of the Wesleyan laity generally, are, however, no secret. They unite, as far as practicable, heart and hand in resisting the measure. In Yorkshire, says the *Leeds Mercury*, the feeling of the Wesleyans is exceedingly strong against the measure, and they are impatient for the opportunity of putting forth all the power of their connexion against it. They are taking part in the general movement with as clear a view of the vices of the measure as on Sir James Graham's Bill. Their opposition is a high-principled, manly, and patriotic, as well as a religious opposition.

#### PUBLIC MEETING AT THE HALL OF COMMERCE.

A public meeting of persons opposed to the Government scheme of education, convened by the Central Committee, was held at the Hall of Commerce, Threadneedle-street, London, on Thursday evening, for the purpose of considering the best means of defeating the obnoxious and unconstitutional proposals of the Council on Education. The spacious hall was most densely crowded in every part. Among the numerous ministers and gentlemen present we observed the following:—D. W. Wire, Esq., chairman; Dr. Cox, Messrs. J. H. Hinton, A.M., R. W. Overbury, R. Eckett, W. Groser, Martineau, B. Woodyard, R. T. Hunt, Dr. Fergusson, ministers; Thomas Sprague, Esq., J. Carter, Esq., H. Rutt, Esq., Josiah Conder, Esq., J. M. Hare, Esq., C.

Reed, Esq., G. Simmonds, Esq., N. Griffin, Esq., Dr. Oxley, &c., &c. Mr. Pattison, M.P., Dr. Reed, S. Morley, Esq., and other gentlemen who were expected to attend, were unavoidably absent.

Mr. HINTON, Baptist minister, moved the first resolution, which, with the rest, will be found in our advertising columns. He described the Government scheme. It was (he said) a step towards despotism, and one which ought to be retraced. For the advancement of education the plan was unnecessary, and would be found, ultimately, impracticable, for if Government undertook to support schools partially, few years would elapse before they would be obliged to support them wholly; and this would call for an expenditure of upwards of £2,000,000 a year. There would be 60,000 State officers; and it was no exaggeration to say, that this little matter would reduce half a million of people to be slavish dependants of Government. It was a scheme for extending clerical domination. The Bishop of Exeter has proposed to make all the schoolmasters deacons of the Church. Now Sheffield alone would be divided into twenty-five districts, each having a schoolmaster; thus there would be no less than twenty-five newly-ordained clergymen in that parish alone [cheers]. Looking at the subject in all its aspects, he contended that the measure should be resisted, the Council of Education abolished, and that no Minister of Public Instruction should be suffered to exist [cheers]. He concluded by suggesting, that as a general election was approaching, a letter should be addressed by the electors of the City of London to Lord J. Russell, telling him that they would not give him their vote if he persisted in the maintenance of this most unconstitutional measure.

J. CONDER, Esq., seconded the resolution. They had heard much cant about ignorance and crime being associated together; but the blue books showed that there was a closer connexion between crime and poverty than between crime and ignorance. One thing was kept entirely in the back ground—he meant the large endowments of grammar-schools and trust-funds, which had been estimated by Lord Brougham to be not less than a million and a half a year. These endowments had been enormously abused. Originally intended for the benefit of the poor, they had been appropriated exclusively to the uses of the rich.

A person of the name of EDWARDS, who described himself to be a working man, here proposed an amendment, the object of which was to declare that it was the duty of the Government to prevent crime and immorality by the general diffusion of industrial and unsectarian education.

Dr. CARLILE having spoken in opposition to it, it was rejected, and the original resolution was carried amidst loud cheers.

Dr. COX moved, and the Rev. B. WOODYARD seconded the two next resolutions, which, with the rest, were unanimously adopted.

**GREAT MEETING IN THE SOUTH OF LONDON.**—On Friday evening, March 12, a public meeting was convened by the South London Committee for opposing the Government education scheme, at the Literary Institution, Borough-road. The spacious theatre of the Institution was densely crowded with as respectable an audience as was ever gathered together in Southwark. The chair was taken by David W. Wire, Esq., who was supported by Mr. Apsley Pellat, Mr. John Brown, Mr. John Cook, Mr. Easty, Mr. R. Harris, Mr. Oliver, &c.; and the following ministers:—Messrs. John Aldis, J. H. Hinton, A.M., J. Mirams, S. Green, Baldwin Brown, B.A., R. T. Hunt, E. Davis, as well as many electors of the boroughs of Southwark and Lambeth, &c., &c. The meeting having been opened with prayer, the Chairman entered into a long and able analysis of the proposal, exposing its obnoxious character and dangerous tendency, warning the English people not to be lulled asleep by the specious character of the measure, and adverted to the sad condition of the people in continental countries where education is sustained and controlled by their Governments. Various decided resolutions were adopted. It was then agreed that a petition to Parliament should be presented, embodying their spirit, and deputations were appointed to wait upon the members for Southwark and Lambeth, requesting them to support its prayer. Mr. Green stated that, in the parish in which he resides, for the existing Church of England schools, the effect of the "Minutes," if carried out, would be to add to its present large revenues for ecclesiastical purposes, under two of the fourteen heads of expenditure alone—the pupil-teachers and stipendiary monitors—an average annual amount for five years, in the former case of about £1,080; in the latter of more than half that amount. Other parishes would be similarly affected.

#### MEETING OF THE ESSEX DISSENTERS AT BRAINTREE.

(Abridged from the *Ipswich Express*.)

On Thursday last, one of the most numerous and influential meetings of the Essex Dissenters ever assembled, took place at the Horn Inn, Braintree, for the purpose of deliberating upon the best measures to be adopted for defeating the Ministerial Plan of National Education, as proposed to be carried out by the Minutes of the Committee of Council. The utmost harmony prevailed in the meeting; the sentiment which all united in expressing was that of unqualified hostility to the attempt made by Government to inflict upon the country a measure which is calculated to destroy all the voluntary institutions of Infant, Day, and Sunday Schools, and confers upon the Established Church of England an authority and power incompatible with the liberties and independence of the people. There was a manifest determination in the meeting to defeat the Ministerial plan by union, energy, and perseverance.

We observed present at the meeting, the Revs. Messrs. Craig, Steer, Davids, Kay, Price, R. Reynolds, Robinson, Bowman, Sainsbury, Riggs, Mark (Felsted), and Rees; also J. Lake, E. Giles, W. Ridley, W. C. Wells, J. Perry, T. Daniell, F. M. Pattison, S. Legerton, J. Dixon, R. W. Dixon, W. Johns, C. Gray, T. King, C. Labor, J. A. Tabor, J. Ely, S.

Staines, D. W. Piper, E. Craig, J. Piper, and J. Totman, Esqrs.; Messrs. Wallis, J. B. Harvey, Kent, Barber, Clements, Shearcroft, S. Daniell, Taylor, Crisp, Bear, Blomfield, Bridge, and other ministers and gentlemen whose names we did not ascertain.

JOHN CHAPLIN, Esq., was called to the chair. The Rev. T. W. DAVIDS, Secretary to the Essex Committee of Education, stated the object of the meeting.

The Rev. R. AINSLIE, the Secretary to the London Congregational Board of Education, and who attended as a deputation from that body, then proceeded to give an exposition of the measure.

He said he felt great pleasure in attending a meeting in the county of Essex, for before the plan was propounded Essex had done its duty by raising a large sum of money by voluntary efforts for the promotion of education, and had other counties done the same to the best of their ability, the present measure would never have been introduced.

He then proceeded to describe the measure in detail. In the course of his remarks he said:—

In the whole of the Minutes of Council, ministers of other denominations are not even named. The Church catechism must be taught in the schools. Many of the clergy themselves have long ago declined teaching it, because they do not believe it. Government, however, intend to enforce the Catechism, the Liturgy, and Creeds, upon all children taught in the Church-schools. In other schools people may teach what they like, and be paid by Government. A Socialist may, therefore, open a school under the sanction of Government. Such a system Dissenters cannot sanction. They will, however, have much to contend with; for though a powerful body in the country, yet in the House of Commons, with one or two exceptions, they have none to advocate their views. The intelligent body of Nonconformists throughout the land are united in the present movement, from a conviction that under our Government the State cannot interfere in the education of the people without doing great injustice to a large portion of the community.

The Rev. T. W. DAVIDS then introduced the notice of the meeting the following extracts from the report of the Essex Congregational Committee, in order to show what had been accomplished in the county by voluntary efforts since the defeat of Sir James Graham's bill:—

The district conferences being completed, your officers directed their energies to the general agitation. With the assistance of the Rev. R. Ainslie in every instance but one, and the additional assistance of Charles Hindley, Esq., M.P., in five, your Secretary has been privileged to hold twenty-seven public meetings. They resulted in pledges of contribution to the amount of £5,485 6s. 2d.

There had been previously contributed in the county, for educational purposes, since the defeat of Sir James Graham's measure, and before the commencement of the present agitation (inclusive of £1,120 pledged to the Congregational Board of Education in London), sundry sums (the particulars were given), amounting altogether to £4,314; making the total expended and promised under the auspices of the Congregationalists of Essex, since the year 1843, and up to March, 1846, no less than £9,699 6s. 2d.

Since the preparation of the paper from which the foregoing extracts have been taken, sundry sums (the particulars were here also given) have been reported, amounting altogether to £950 15s.; thus making the sum total contributed, under Congregational auspices alone, in this county, to the period over which our present movement extends, no less than £10,650 15s. 2d.

This gross sum of £10,650 does not include any moneys expended upon the sustenance of day schools previously established, and which provide accommodation for about 5,000 children; neither any portion of the outlay incurred by the maintenance of our Congregational Sunday schools, which report an actual average attendance of about 10,000; and, therefore, especially when it is remembered that there are several places from which, as yet, no returns have been obtained, this statement of the whole amount contributed in this county, under the auspices of Congregationalists alone, within the limits already mentioned, is certainly within, and in all probability far below, the fact.

The following are already the results of the labours in which your Committee have been engaged:—

At Colchester, Tiptree, Stebbing, Woodham Ferris, and Epping, seven new day schools have been erected, which provide accommodation for at least 1,000 children, and all of which are now in full and successful operation.

At Colchester, Kelvedon, Saffron Walden, Felsted, Writtle, Wakering, Southminster, and Southend, eight new day-schools have been established, which provide accommodation for upwards of 900, all of which are also in full operation and under zeal-encouraging auspices.

At Witham, Coggeshall, Rochford, and Braintree, six Day Infant Schools have been disencumbered of outstanding debts which had occasioned their managers much anxiety, relieved from other pecuniary difficulties in which they were involved, the hands of their conductors strengthened, and the efficiency of their instruction greatly increased. The advantages thus secured or augmented are now offered on a scale that will admit of the education of at least 1,000 children.

At Wivenhoe, Manningtree, Fordham, Steeple Bumpstead, Castle Hedingham, and Finchingfield, arrangements are in progress for the erection or establishment of eight new day schools in addition to those already mentioned; and which, when completed, will probably raise the amount of educational privilege more or less directly secured by the present movement to nearly, if not quite sufficient, for 4,200 children.

At Brentwood, Harwich, Wethersfield, Thaxted, and Upminster, pledges have been given to the amount of £900, which will be redeemed as soon as local circumstances will admit of operations being successfully commenced. It is expected that the result will be, in these localities, provision for the daily instruction of, at least, from 800 to 1,000 children.

And from Chishill, Billericay, Walthamstow, Little Baddow, and Woodford, your committee have received promises of further efforts in aid of their important and already successful operations.

With these results before them, your committee feel indeed that they have great reason to "thank God and take courage." To have been instrumental in raising upwards of £6,000 for so important an object as the "training of our youth in the nurture and admonition of the Lord"—already to have provided the advantages of a sound and scriptural education for at least 2,000 children hitherto nearly destitute—to have been further instrumental in augmenting and securing the same advantages for 1,000 more—to have it in their power to report preparations for immediately extending the same privileges to, probably, an additional thousand, and yet to feel that their movement is still in progress, is truly an ample recompense for all their anxieties, and greatly more than an adequate compensation for all their toil.

Resolutions were then moved, seconded, and unanimously adopted by the meeting, for which we refer our readers to the advertisement inserted in another column.

It was agreed that arrangements should be made by every congregation in the county, for memorializing the Queen to rescind the Order in Council, and to petition both Houses of the Legislature to withhold the grant of £100,000.

After the meeting, about fifty gentlemen sat down to dinner. As soon as the cloth was removed and the health of her Majesty had been drunk, the Rev. T. W. Davids stated that at one or two places in the county, where Nonconformists had received Government money in past years, a resolution had been formed to send it back again at the earliest opportunity. This announcement was received with applause; and we have reason to believe that the example thus nobly set will be



followed by other places; and thus the independence of the county of Essex of all Government aid for educational purposes will be fully and honourably secured.

The health of Mr. Davids was then enthusiastically drunk. Mr. Dixon, of Witham, in proposing it, stated that the Essex Dissenters were under great obligations to Mr. Davids, who was indefatigable in his exertions to serve the cause which they all held most dear, and to whom they were mainly indebted for the high position they held in the country.

#### MEETING AT COLCHESTER.

At seven o'clock on Thursday evening, a meeting of the Dissenters of Colchester was held at the Lion-walk Chapel, to adopt measures for opposing the Ministerial plan of education. J. C. Eisdell, Esq., was called to the chair. There were present, amongst others, the Rev. T. W. Davids, R. Langford, C. Rigges (Tiptree), A. Anderson (Bures), S. Hubbard (Wivenhoe), J. Carter (Tollesbury), H. J. Haas (Nayland), and J. James (Fordham); Messrs. Thomas Daniell, H. Foster, Morris, W. Delf, Chaplin, H. Philbrick, Moore, Griffin, Wittey, Hurnard, J. B. Harvey, Churchill, Isbern, Haddon, Wicks, Fenton, Warrington, Barrett, Bradnach, Craske, J. Ward, S. Cant, White, E. Ward, Johnson, M. Harvey, W. Blyth, Brackett, Tabor, Cooper, &c.

Mr. R. G. CRASKE moved the first resolution, which was seconded by the Rev. R. AINSLIE. [See Advertisement.]

Mr. AINSLIE gave a very lucid exposition of Lord Lansdowne's measure, dissecting its various parts by a masterly hand, and proving its objectionable character by irresistible evidence. His speech embraced the leading points upon which he had previously enlarged at Braintree, and he urged upon the meeting the claim which the Minutes of the Council—so adroitly framed, and so quietly laid upon the tables of both Houses of Parliament—had upon their calm, deliberate, and honest consideration. He pointed out the evil resulting from taking Government money for educational purposes, and expressed his satisfaction that at Chelmsford, Dunmow, and other places in Essex, resolutions had been come to, that the money with which they had been polluted should be returned, in order that they might wash their hands of the defilement.

The Rev. R. LANGFORD moved the second resolution. He would, to the utmost of his power, oppose this measure, which was not only unconstitutional, but at variance with every principle we hold dear as Nonconformists.

D. MORRIS, Esq., seconded the resolution. He said, that on some grounds he was not sorry the Government had proposed this measure, because it had roused the Dissenters from their apathy, and he hoped it would have the effect of leading them to assert their principles at the next election. It did not surprise him that the Whigs had brought forward the present plan, for while the Tories were for supporting one establishment the Whigs were for endowing all, and establishing every form of religion. They were no greater lovers of religious liberty than the Tories. Let them not be trusted; but let the Nonconformists strive to get a number of men, who understood their principles, into the House of Commons. With half a dozen such men in the House, a measure like Lord Lansdowne's would not have been brought forward. It was time for the Dissenters to make an aggressive movement, and demand a separation of Church and State; this was the only honest way of going to work; and that man was not a Dissenter who was content to leave the Established Church untouched.

JOHN CHAPLIN, Esq., moved the third resolution. He observed that he would not question the propriety of agitating the country upon this subject; but something more than excitement was needed. Nonconformists must make their objections tell by voting consistently at the polling-booth; they must tell their candidates that they cannot have their support unless they understand the principles of Civil and Religious Liberty; they must test whoever offers himself for their suffrages, and if he will not pledge himself to oppose all grants for educational purposes, they must tell him he shall not have their votes. This was the only way in which they could make their opinions tell, and the only mode in which they could hope to carry out their principles.

The Rev. A. ANDERSON, of Bures, seconded the resolution; and denounced the measure as unprincipled, unjust, and inexpedient.

The Rev. T. W. DAVIDS, in supporting the resolution, strenuously urged upon the great body of Nonconformists who possessed the elective franchise, the duty of taking their stand at the next election upon the broad principle of opposition to all Government interference with the education of the people. He would go further than this; he would insist upon, as a necessary qualification of any man who might ask for their suffrages, opposition to the principle of a State-church. Surely the time was come for Dissenters to assert their principles, and to tell every candidate fairly and openly, "whatever may be your local influence or your moral character, you are not the man for us, unless you are prepared to carry out our views."

J. A. TABOR, Esq., then briefly addressed the meeting; and, after some further resolutions had been passed, the meeting separated.

OLDHAM.—A well-attended meeting of the inhabitants of Oldham, convened by announcements in several of the places of worship, was held in the Independent Chapel, Queen-street, Oldham, on Monday evening, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of petitioning Parliament to reject the Government scheme of education. Mr. Jonathan Mellor, jun., was called to the chair. The proceedings were commenced by singing and prayer. The speakers were Mr. J. L. Quarmbay, Mr. J. Longley (Independent), Mr. Hoskins (Wesleyan), and Mr. R. M. Davies (Independent). All the resolutions, which were of a very decided character, were passed unanimously. Mr. Davies said that the manufacturers and shop-keepers of Oldham did not want Government aid to educate their children; they could do it themselves; and, as for the working classes,

they were amply provided for in the numerous Sunday-schools, and the voluntary supported day-schools [cheers]. If the operatives wanted additional education, it would be gladly provided by voluntary means [hear, hear].

SOUTHAMPTON.—The *Hants Independent* contains the report of the proceedings of a very numerous and influential meeting, held at the Above-bar Chapel, Southampton, on Thursday evening, for the purpose of adopting measures in opposition to the plan of national education recently proposed by the present Government. In addition to the ministers, we also observed the leading members of the different dissenting denominations of the town present. Mr. Adkins, Independent minister, occupied the chair, and after stating his objections to the measure, said that they must bear in mind that they could not receive the measure in piecemeal—they must take it as a whole; and that if they could not accept it as a whole, they were now called on to say what steps, as Protestant Nonconformists, they would take to oppose it [applause]. The meeting was also addressed by Messrs. T. Morris, R. Hartley, A. McLaren, T. Pullar, ministers; and by Mr. W. Lankester, Mr. A. Mordant, a member of the Society of Friends. In the course of the proceedings the Chairman read a letter he had received from the Rev. W. Smith, Wesleyan minister, regretting that he was unavoidably prevented from attending the meeting. The letter stated that, by the constitution of their body, the Wesleyans always moved connexionally on these questions; but their Council on Education, and also on Privileges, were on the alert, and were taking steps with reference to this subject. His own individual opinion of the measure was, that it was unconstitutional, unnecessary, and would be, in the hands of the clergy, a tool of despotism. Mr. PULLAR said:—Their much-respected chairman and himself had that day attended a meeting connected with the British School in that town, and they found there was room for many scholars. The grand defect was the absence of a desire for education [hear]. It was not schools and apparatus that would create that desire. He questioned whether there was one individual in Southampton, who could not obtain education if it was desired. The evil could not be cured by force [hear, hear]. The most formidable obstacle to the happiness of this country was the union of Church and State; and he prayed God to hasten the hour when their episcopal brethren would be lifted from their high estate, and the chain be snapped asunder by which they were crippled, and the church would then rise to its primitive condition and purity [applause]. Mr. Casewell, Unitarian minister, wished to be understood that the course taken by Mr. Wicksteed at Leeds was not to be considered as that sanctioned by the body. He (Mr. Casewell), as a minister of that persuasion, was decidedly opposed to it, and he knew many others of its ministers and members who were of the same opinion [hear, hear]. A resolution to oppose the measure was unanimously adopted.

LIVERPOOL.—On Thursday evening last, a second public meeting of the various bodies of Evangelical Dissenters opposed to all Government interference with the education of the people, was held in Great George-street Chapel, Liverpool, for the purpose of determining the best measures to be adopted for carrying out their opposition to the proposed scheme of Government. The attendance was very numerous. Dr. Raffles was called to the chair. The resolutions of the meeting which were most decided against all State interference with or patronage of education, and specially against the measure contained in the Minutes of the Committee of Education, were moved in very animated and eloquent speeches. Mr. Kelly, in addressing the meeting, said:—"Of the two systems proposed, the system of giving a sum of money here and a sum of money there was the worst that the Government could adopt. Let them have the compulsory system by all means rather than that. What were they to do then?—Why, their duty was to disdain to touch the pestilential thing,—amidst the general prostration let them at least stand erect [applause]. If they stood firm, and resolved not to touch the Government gold, they would stand as a mighty bulwark against the hopes of such a system." "We must endeavour," said Mr. Thomas Blackburn, "to put an end to the Council of Education, which was the source of all this mischief, and which would never cease to be a source of contention and strife so long as it existed" [loud applause]. Amongst the remaining speakers were Messrs. W. Bevan, Lancaster, and Laxton, ministers, Mr. Charles Robertson, and Mr. D. Rowland.

NORWICH.—A public meeting was held on Friday week, at the Old Meeting, Norwich, to take into consideration the scheme recently propounded by Government for popular education. There was a very numerous attendance. The Mayor was called to the chair. Mr. A. Reed, Independent minister, entered into an explanation of the scheme they were met to oppose, and concluded by moving "That the Government propositions in reference to education are most objectionable, and call for the determined opposition of all friends of civil and religious liberty." Mr. I. Lord, minister, seconded the resolution. He resisted the Government measure on the same ground that he resisted the impost connected with the Church Establishment—upon the same ground that he refused to pay Church-rates. He agreed with the *Norfolk News* in supposing that the greatest evil that afflicted the nation was the Church establishment; if they could once get rid of that, all the minor evils of which they complained would be swept away with it [hear]. Mr. T. A. WHEELER, minister, moved, "that the proposition of the Government, if carried into effect, will virtually create an additional ecclesiastical establishment, will augment clerical power, will place the education of the people under the control of the Government, and check those voluntary efforts which have already accomplished so much." Mr. J. H. TILLET, in seconding the resolution, said, Christianity was at one time treated with contempt by those in power. When it grew in strength, it was made the object of persecution and cruelty, but when its power became irresistible, the Government offered it its gracious protection, endowed its clergy, and even

became submissive to its authority [hear]. So was it with education—once despised by those who now admired it. No sooner did the people begin to educate themselves, and thus develop the power they possessed, than the Government, fearing the growing strength of the nation, came forward to patronize it; and assuredly, some of the corruptions which arose from the kind patronage of Constantine, would likewise be attendant on the endowment and support of Lord John Russell ["Hear," and applause]. The resolution was then put to the meeting, and carried with one dissentient. "Our friends in this district, we are glad to say," says the *Norfolk News*, "are prepared to enter on an immediate and energetic movement against this measure."

LEEDS BOROUGH MEETING IN THE CLOTH HALL-YARD, ON WEDNESDAY, TO OPPOSE THE GOVERNMENT MEASURE.—We scarcely ever remember a more important and weighty requisition than that addressed to the Mayor of Leeds, to call a meeting of the borough, to consider of the propriety of opposing the Government measure of education. The names, which will be seen in another column, are about five hundred in number, and include those of many Churchmen, as well as of leading Wesleyans, Independents, Baptists, Unitarians, and all the other Nonconforming bodies. It may be said that the entire Liberal body, with exceedingly few exceptions, and also several Tories, are hostile to the measure. There is not, so far as we know, any difference of opinion among the Nonconformists (except as to the Unitarians, many of whom are as hostile to the measure as ourselves). The measure, therefore, if carried, will be a declaration of war, on the part of Ministers, against the whole body of their supporters. The excellent Mayor of the borough will preside—not to express his disapprobation of the object, as he did at the one-sided meeting last Monday—but, as we believe, to declare his hearty concurrence. At the meeting of friends to the measure, on Monday, though not an individual spoke against the resolutions or moved an amendment, and though all the leading opponents of the measure absented themselves, the first resolution was carried only by a small majority. The opinions of the borough of Leeds will be learnt from the borough meeting, to be held on Wednesday next.—*Leeds Mercury*.

GREAT MEETING AT LEICESTER.—On Thursday evening a public meeting was held in the New-hall, Leicester, in opposition to the plan of education as announced by Lord Lansdowne, and projected by the Committee of Council on Education. The spacious hall was densely crowded with a highly respectable audience; and never did we see one more unanimous and determined in its opposition to any measure. Amongst the gentlemen on the platform we noticed H. F. Coleman, Esq., of Evington-hall; Aldermen Harris and Nunneley; the Rev. Dr. Hamilton, of Leeds; the Rev. C. Stovel, of London; the Rev. G. Miall, of Ullesthorpe; J. Cripps, Esq., A. Burgess, Esq., the Rev. Dr. Legge, the Rev. J. P. Mursell, &c., of Leicester. On the motion of the Rev. Mr. Wallis, Principal of the General Baptist College, seconded by Mr. John Manning, Henry Freeman Coleman, Esq., was called to the chair. The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said:—"Let me most respectfully but earnestly urge upon you the duty of making a bold and united effort against the measure. Here let us take our stand,—no Government interference or endowment of any kind whatever [applause]. A great writer of bygone days has remarked, that endowments are apologies for idle people [hear, hear]. The enemy is active, and at work; the fetters are forging; and, if you slumber at your posts, you will, ere long, be bound hand and foot for perhaps half a century to come." Mr. Smedmore then addressed the meeting, and was followed by the Rev. Mr. Todd, Dr. Legge, Mr. Cripps, Dr. Hamilton, Mr. Stovel, Mr. Mursell, and Mr. Winks.—*Leicester Mercury*. [The resolutions will be found in our advertising columns.]

MANCHESTER.—At a meeting of the Baptist ministers of South Lancashire, held in Grosvenor-street Chapel, Manchester, on Tuesday last, resolutions were passed denouncing the Government education scheme, and recommending to the Baptist churches of South Lancashire immediate, vigorous, and uncompromising opposition to this insidious measure. The *Manchester Times* of Friday says:—"The public mind is not generally apprised of the character of the scheme in this town. Some distinguished advocates of liberty are open to reproach for having been so slow to move, and having left the multitude uninformed. Circumstances of a personal nature may have obstructed the more energetic from active measures. But we are glad to perceive that the Dissenting ministers of Manchester and Salford are adopting most efficient means both to enlighten and direct the friends of liberty as well as education. From an advertisement in our columns this day, we are glad to see that they are proceeding in preliminaries by a course of lectures on the Government scheme of education."

DONCASTER.—On Wednesday evening, March 10th, a meeting of the church and congregation worshipping in Hallgate Chapel, Doncaster, was held to oppose the Government scheme of education. The chair was occupied by the pastor, Mr. G. B. Johnson. The first resolution was moved by Mr. Hastie, seconded by Mr. J. Green, and supported by Mr. S. Broadbent, Wesleyan minister. It expressed lively satisfaction at the progress of education during the last thirty years, and the fullest confidence in the voluntary principle for the supply of such extended means of instruction as the country requires. The second resolution, moved by W. Chadwick, Esq., seconded by Mr. Jaques, and supported by Mr. B. Ash, Independent minister, condemned the proposed Government interference with this great national work, no less on the grounds of its violation of sound principles of legislation, and of its superfluity, than of the several most obnoxious proposals of the scheme itself. The third resolution, moved by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. T. J. Woods, recommended the preparation of petitions to both Houses of Parliament. The meeting most unanimously and cordially adopted the several resolutions; petitions have been accordingly prepared, praying that the proposed measure be withdrawn, and the powers given to the Committee of Council in 1839, be revoked.



## LITERATURE.

*Notes, Explanatory and Practical, on the New Testament.* By Rev. ALBERT BARNES. Reprinted Verbatim from the latest American Editions, revised by the Author, and Edited by Rev. INGRAM COBBIN, M.A. Aylott and Jones.

THIS is a quarto edition of Barnes' Notes on the New Testament, a form which many readers will covet. The publishers profess their edition to be preferable, on various accounts, to all others. As far as we have seen, it is a good one, and worthy of patronage.

*The Midland Florist and Suburban Horticulturist.* Conducted by JOHN FREDERICK WOOD, F.H.S., Nurseryman and Florist, The Coppice, near Nottingham. No. I. Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.

WE cannot pretend to a scientific estimate of the merits of this periodical, but as far as we are able to judge, from its first number, it seems likely to prove of great service to the horticultural and floricultural public. About five and twenty different articles are contained in less than half as many again pages—thus indicating a resolute regard to practical purposes. As to the matter, we can assure our readers that it is composed of both flower and fruit.

*The Scriptural Doctrine of the Church.* Sketched by J. WENGER. Calcutta: printed at the Baptist Mission-Press, Circular-road.

OF this volume the following account is given in the preface:—"The following treatise originated in a suggestion of the late lamented Gangá Nārāyan Sil, who, at the first meeting of the Association of Baptist churches in Bengal, held at Serampore, in January, 1843, invited attention to the importance of diffusing information on this subject among the native Christians connected with the Baptist churches, some of whom had, during the preceding year, shown a lamentable want of stability, occasioned, in a great measure, by their imperfect acquaintance with church principles. It was consequently resolved, at the Association, that a brief work should be drawn up, in the first instance, in English; and that, from the materials so compiled, a selection should afterwards be made, and presented to the native Christians in a vernacular garb. The following pages are the result."

Readers, in general, will not expect much profundity or novelty in a treatise, "the greater portion of which, was, from the first, designed to be translated into Bengali, for the benefit of the comparatively illiterate community of Native Christians." At the same time, the author has displayed commendable diligence in the collection of materials for the volume, which, from its comprehensiveness, clearness, and general good sense, may be advantageously circulated in other circles than those for which it was principally designed. It contains seven chapters, relating to most of the topics of ecclesiastical polity and institutions—and therefore may be expected to present some views in which we should be unable to agree with the author. He is, apparently, a man of liberal mind.

*Literary Characteristics of the Holy Scriptures.* By J. M. McCULLOCH, D.D., Minister of West Church, Greenock. Second Edition, with additions and supplementary notes. Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd.

THE substance of two lectures delivered at a Mechanics' Institution. "What is attempted," says the author, "is simply to present such a sample of the beauty and fruitfulness of 'the good land,' as may induce the student to 'go up' and explore it for himself." This, we think, he has done.

*Interesting Memoirs and Documents relating to Slavery, and the glorious Struggle now making for Complete Emancipation.* London: Chapman, Brothers.

THIS is a specimen volume of "the Barker Library," one of the professedly very cheap things of the day. We should not like to express an opinion of it without seeing more of it, especially as the projector and editor declares himself to be "what most of the sects call heterodox," and his intention to be the publication of several "theological works which would be called heterodox."

The first volume is devoted to American slavery; and from the glance we have taken at its contents, it seems well-fitted to expose, and help towards the abolition of that enormous evil. It consists of narratives, facts, testimonies, laws, arguments, &c., of various kinds, chiefly taken from American publications.

*On Inducelling Sin; and on the Mortification of Sin in Believers.* By JOHN OWEN, D.D.

ONE of the Tract Society's series of Doctrinal Puritans. The treatises are too well known to need description, being, for practical purposes, two of Owen's most valued works.

*The History of Rome; from the Earliest Period to the Close of the Empire.* Adapted for youth, schools, and families. By Miss CORNER. Dean and Co., Thread-needle-street.

THIS is what it professes to be—"a useful book of instruction"—following out very closely the track made by Niebuhr and Arnold. It is both concise and compendious, with enough of detail to render it interesting. Its greatest lack is—what no book for young persons should be without—moral sentiments.

*Lessons of Life and Death; A Memorial of Sarah Ball.* By ELIZABETH RITCHIE. Second Edition. Snow.

THIS is very instructive and beautiful; touching with a good deal of effect some of the main points of moral and Christian virtue. In a few instances it would gain by simplicity; but it is an appropriate present for a young lady, and will aid much in the formation of religious character.

## GLEANINGS.

## ALONE.

(From the *People's Journal*.)

'Twas midnight, and he sat alone—  
The husband of the dead.  
That day the dark dust had been thrown  
Upon her buried head.  
Her orphan'd children round him slept,  
But in their sleep would moan:  
Then fell the first tear he had wept—  
He felt he was alone.

The world was full of life and light,  
But, ah, no more for him!  
His little world, once warm and bright—  
It now was cold and dim.  
Where was her sweet and kindly face?  
Where was her cordial tone?  
He gazed around his dwelling-place,  
And felt he was alone.

The wifely love—maternal care—  
The self-denying zeal—  
The smile of hope that chased despair,  
And promised future weal:  
The clean bright hearth—nice table spread—  
The charm o'er all things thrown—  
The sweetness in whatever she said—  
All gone—he was alone!

He look'd into his cold wild heart—  
All sad and unresign'd:  
He ask'd how he had done his part  
To one so true—so kind?  
Each error past he tried to track—  
In torture would atone—  
Would give his life to bring hers back—  
In vain—he was alone.

He slept at last; and then he dream'd  
(Perchance her spirit woke),  
A soft light o'er his pillow gleam'd,  
A voice in music spoke—  
"Forgotten—forgotten all neglect—  
Thy love recall'd alone:  
The babes I leave; oh, love, protect!  
I still am all thine own."

MARY LEMAN GILLIES.

NU NUZPAPUR.—A paper has been published in "Bostun" (as it is spelt), U.S., on the phonotypic principle. It is entitled the "Anglo-Sacsun, divoted to the difyuzun ov nolej and nuz."

M. Soyer, the renowned cook of the Reform Club, is now in Dublin superintending the erection of a model soup-kitchen, to feed the Irish.

GOOD NEWS FOR SCHOOL-BOYS.—A vessel, last week arrived from China, has brought 30,200 canes.

WASTE OF LIFE IN LONDON.—In this metropolis, there are about 200 deaths a week, nearly 30 deaths a day, or more than one death an hour, beyond what ought to happen in the common course of nature. — *Sanitary State of the Metropolis*.

Some of the Irish papers mention the success attending the cultivation of a new plant, a native of Siberia, called the "Oil and Cake Plant, or Gold of Pleasure." The oil derivable from it is said to be useful for lamps, the manufacture of woollen goods, and soap.

A LONG WAY ROUND.—A letter a short time since was received by a person in Wales which, from an error in sorting in London, had performed a voyage round the world. It was directed to South Wales, and by mistake was forwarded to New South Wales. It was then returned by a ship-mailed at Penzance, and endorsed "Not known here, try South Wales, England," where it found its proper owner.

INCOMES OF METROPOLITAN SURGEONS.—At the last return under the Income-tax Act, no fewer than thirty surgeons practising in London admitted that their professional earnings amounted to £10,000 per annum each; and of these, three were upwards of £20,000 each.

The *Cambridge Advertiser* states it as a positive fact that no less than a peck and a half of peas were gathered from the floor of the Senate House the last day of the Chancellorship election.

The Swedish ambassador at Paris has notified to Professor Schönbein that his sovereign has conferred on the philosopher the honour of knighthood, in recognition of his invention of gun-cotton.

DON'T FEAR A WARM BATH.—An impression being prevalent that the warm bath makes those who use it liable to take cold, the committee for promoting the establishment of baths and wash-houses have published a certificate to the contrary, signed by 144 eminent physicians and surgeons.—*Builder*.

A SECRET FOR A FARMER'S WIFE.—While the milking of your cows is going on, let your pans be placed in boiling water. Strain the milk into one of the pans taken hot from the water, and cover it with another of the hot pans, and proceed in like manner with the whole mass of milk, and you will find that you will have double the quantity of good rich cream and sweet delicious butter.—*Taunton Courier*.

AN ALDERMAN'S FAMILY SOLD TO PAY HIS DEBTS!—The American papers more and more show the horrors of slavery—how it is abrogating all that common-sense, morality, or religion dictate. The following is from the *Washington Patriot*:—"We noticed, a short time since, the sudden disappearance from Charleston, South Carolina, of a certain alderman and bank director, on account of debts which he could not pay, and who was married to a mulatto woman, by whom he had six children. It turns out, now, that this mulatto woman was his slave; and, consequently, the six children are slaves also! The result is, the creditors of the absconding alderman have made arrangements to seize the wife and children, and sell them for her husband's and their father's debts!"

THE USES OF NETTLES.—A German journal mentions, that it has been proved, from a series of experiments, that the seed of nettles, mixed with the food of oxen, makes their hides sleek and shiny, and improves the flavour of their flesh; and this discovery, the same paper asserts, is considered of so much importance, that several farmers propose for the future to set aside two or three fields to the exclusive cultivation of nettles!

DANGERS ARISING FROM THE USE OF VAPOUR OF ETHER.—At a meeting of the Paris Academy of Sciences, on the 8th instant, M. Majendie repeated his warning as to the necessity of great caution in administering the fumes of ether. A variety of experiments were detailed by MM. Flourens, Serres, and Gruby, on the application of the fumes and also of ether itself to the nervous systems of dogs, rabbits, mice, and frogs. In one case, the spinal marrow of a dog, after being exposed, was "picked, cut,

and torn," without showing any evidence of sensation. Frogs wounded just before the experiment resisted the effect of the application longer than those that were uninjured. A frog deprived of its brain, and exposed to the vapour of ether, retains its sensibility and powers of contraction much longer than one which has not been wounded. Grown-up dogs were deprived of sensation in eight minutes, and died if the action of the ether was kept up for forty-five minutes. They recovered if exposed to the ether when the experiment had not been prolonged for more than from forty to forty-four minutes. Young dogs apparently dead were revived by copious bleeding from the jugular vein.

MISS MARTINEAU.—This eminent lady is at present journeying, with a party of English friends, towards Jerusalem. In a letter to the *People's Journal* for the present week she says—"Our journey has been prosperous to the last degree—almost too glorious." She then gives a "Survey from the Great Pyramid," to the summit of which the party had climbed, by the aid of Arab guides, only a short time before the paper was written. It is descriptive of the appearance of that interesting country, and full of reflections upon the great events of Egyptian history.

LORD STANLEY, a few nights ago, alluded to Lord Brougham as "the noble lord who had just taken his seat;" but, chancing to look round, and seeing the ex-chancellor jumping about like a cricket, begged pardon, and said he meant his noble friend who "never took his seat" [great laughter].

## BIRTHS.

March 10, at Fishmongers'-hall, Mrs. WOOD, of a daughter.  
March 11, the wife of Mr. CYRUS R. EDMONDS, of Leicester, of a daughter, who survived but a few hours.  
March 14, at Cambridge-place, Camberwell New-road, the wife of Mr. HENRY R. ELLINGTON, of a daughter.  
March 15, at New Park-road, Brixton-Hill, Mrs. JAMES SPICER, of a son.

## MARRIAGES.

March 6, at Ebenezer Chapel, Scarborough, by Mr. B. Evans, minister, Mr. J. G. CARLILL, accountant, Hull, to SARAH, youngest daughter of the late Mr. C. LAYBOURNE, of Driffield.  
March 7, in the Independent Chapel, Torquay, by Mr. John Orange, minister, Mr. WILLIAM REYNOLDS, of Torquay, to Mrs. CASBY, of the same place.  
March 10, at Melksham, Wiltshire, Mr. WILLIAM JACKSON, minister, to EMMA, daughter of Edward PHILLIPS, Esq., of Melksham.  
March 11, at Union Chapel, Herne Bay, Kent, by Mr. Charles Hyatt, minister of the above chapel, Mr. WILLIAM JONES, to Miss ELIZABETH HOOLEY, both of Chislely, Kent.  
March 11, at Providence Chapel, Rochdale, by Mr. D. Hewitt, minister, Mr. JOHN RISQUE, grocer, Stockport, to JULIA, only daughter of the late Mr. JOHN W. DAVENPORT, schoolmaster, Rochdale.  
March 11, at Hope Chapel, Clifton, by Mr. David Thomas, B.A., Mr. JOHN TITLEY, of Bath, minister, to Mrs. BEER, Portland-street, Bristol.  
March 13, at the Baptist Chapel, Blakeney, Gloucestershire, by Mr. W. Copley, minister, Mr. SAMUEL THOMAS, to Miss EUNICE BARNARD, both of Cinderford, Dean Forest.  
March 13, at Harlow, Mr. MULLINGER, of Bishop's Stortford, to ELIZABETH, widow of the late Mr. F. HASLAM, and eldest daughter of William BARNARD, Esq., of Harlow, Essex.  
March 16, at the Independent Chapel, Masbro', by Mr. J. B. Lister, of Rotherham College, Mr. JOSEPH BLACKMOOR to Miss ANNE CROSSLAND, both of Rotherham.

## DEATHS.

March 5, at his residence, Hendon, Middlesex, aged 70 years, Mr. WILLIAM ROBBINS; much respected and lamented. His end was peace.  
March 6, ELIZABETH DAVISON, wife of the late James Davison, minister of the gospel, and pastor of the Congregational church at Chudleigh, Devon. Her end was peace.  
March 6, at Stoke Newington, in her 82nd year, Mrs. MARY ROSS, relict of the late Charles ROSS, Esq., shipbuilder, of Rochester.  
March 7, Miss SARAH GOULD, aged 29, of Leamington, Warwickshire.  
March 8, at Kimbolton, Hunts, after a short illness, Mr. JOHN HEMMING, A.M., M.W.S., in the 53rd year of his age, and the 30th of his pastorate over the Baptist church at that place.  
March 10, at Beaminster, Dorset, MARY ANN, eldest daughter of Mr. Henry PEACH, of that place, aged 24 years.  
March 11, of typhus fever, SUSAN, the affectionate wife of Mr. C. HARDCASTLE, of Waterford, minister. The disease, it is believed, was induced by a course of visiting the abodes of disease and want in that city, which she cheerfully undertook.  
March 13, at Addington-square, Camberwell, JEMIMA, the widow of the late Mr. Thomas BOURNE, formerly of Melksham, Wilts, in the 85th year of her age, deeply regretted by her surviving family and friends.

## TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Friday, March 12.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnizing marriages, pursuant to an act of the 6th and 7th William IV., c. 85:—

The Wesleyan Chapel, Alton.

## BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.

BENBOW, THOMAS, Llanidloes, Montgomeryshire, draper.  
HILTON, JAMES, Manchester, stockbroker.

## BANKRUPTS.

ARMITAGE, JOHN, Paddock, Yorkshire, woollen cloth merchant, March 29, April 16: solicitors, Mr. Sparham, Chancery-lane, London: Messrs. J. and W. Sykes, Huddersfield; and Mr. Sykes, Leeds.

BIDDLE, PAUL, Judd-street, New-road, tallow chandler, March 19, April 23: solicitors, Messrs. J. and T. Davies, Coleman-street.  
BROOM, HENRY CHARLES, Lawrence Pountney-hill, grocer, March 23, April 24: solicitors, Messrs. Van Sandau and Co., King-street, Cheap-side.

FITCH, SAMUEL, Writtle, Essex, maltster, March 22, April 26: solicitor, Mr. Walker, Furnival's Inn.

LITTLE, WILLIAM, Borough-road, Southwark, paper manufacturer, March 24, April 29: solicitor, Mr. Hall, Moorgate-street.

LOVATT, HENRY, and CORRAN, WILLIAM HINDE LARMAN, Liverpool, merchants, March 26, April 27: solicitors, Messrs. Norris, Allen, and Simpson, Bedford-row, London; and Mr. R. Norris, Liverpool.

MARTIN, WILLIAM, Skinner-street, Somers'-town, grocer, March 22, April 26: solicitors, Messrs. Walsh and Co., Lincoln's Inn-fields.

SAW, ROBERT, Hammersmith, grocer, March 22, April 26: solicitor, Mr. Dodds, St. Martin's-lane.

TAYLOR, EDWARD ABEL, Tottenham-court-road, victualler, March 23, April 23: solicitors, Messrs. Holmer and Son, Bridge-street, Southwark.

THOROGOOD, JOHN, Aldgate High-street, innkeeper, March 19, April 23: solicitors, Messrs. J. T. and H. Baddeleys, 12, Leman-street.

TOWNSEND, JOSEPH THOMAS, High-street, Islington, carpet dealer, March 23, April 24: solicitors, Messrs. Pain and Hatherly, Basinghall-street.

## SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

BISHOP, JAMES, Tipperlinn, land surveyor, March 19, April 9.

FULLANTON, ARCHIBALD, Inverness, clothier, March 19, April 9.

HAG, DAVID, Dalkeith, plumber, March 18, April 7.

MITCHELL, ROBERT HARDY, Dundee, twine manufacturer, March 17, April 8.

MURRAY, WILLIAM, Mains of Pitkeathly, farmer, March 22, April 14.

RODGER, JAMES, Dalry, merchant, March 18, April 12.

THOMSON, JAMES, Edinburgh, woollen draper, March 18, April 12.

## DIVIDENDS.

Thomas Wilson and Sons, Liverpool, linen drapers, div. of 7½d.; also a first div. of 6s. 6d. on the separate estate of C. K. Wilson and Brother; at 19, South Castle-street, Liverpool, any Thursday—



William Bradley, Leeds, flax spinner, first div. of ls. 3d.; at 4, Commercial-buildings, Leeds, any Friday.

### Tuesday, March 16.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnizing marriages, pursuant to an act of the 6th and 7th William IV., c. 85:

St. Edmund's Catholic Chapel, Bury St. Edmund's.  
Broadway Meeting, Somersetshire.

### BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

DUTCHMAN, HEWSON, Toxteth-park, near Liverpool, merchant.  
KNIGHT, GEORGE, Weybridge, dealer in manure.

### BANKRUPTS.

BARRS, ELIZABETH, Cheltenham, lodging-house keeper, April 1, 27: solicitor, Mr. Chesshyre, Cheltenham.  
BOOTH, HENRY, BOOTH, JAMES, and BOOTH, THOMAS, Haughton, Lancashire, hat manufacturers, March 30, April 20: solicitors, Messrs. Clarke and Co., Lincoln's-inn-fields, London; and Mr. J. Brooks, Ashton-under-Lyne.

FENNELL, JOHN GREVILLE, formerly of 6, Belvidere-crescent, Lambeth, and now of 15, King-street, Holborn, general agent, March 25, May 1: solicitor, Mr. Pullen, Basinghall-street.

GOODWIN, OWEN, and GOODWIN, THOMAS, Burslem, druggists, March 31, April 21: solicitors, Mr. Pilcher, New Broad-street, London; and Mr. T. R. T. Hodgson, Birmingham.

GLOVER, ROBERT, and GLOVER, FREDERICK, Leeds, dyers, March 27, April 16: solicitors, Mr. Hartley, Southampton-street, Bloomsbury; and Messrs. Payne and Co., Leeds.

GIBSON, RICHARD, Castle Bromwich, Warwickshire, grazier, March 30, April 27: solicitors, Mr. H. Weeks, Cook's-court, Lincoln's-inn, London; and Mr. J. Smith, Birmingham.

HARVEY, JOHN, Liskeard, assayer, March 30, April 21: solicitors, Mr. John Stogdon, Exeter; and Messrs. Kedell and Co., Lime-street, London.

HALSTED, JOHN, Radcliffe, Lancashire, cotton manufacturer, March 26, April 16: solicitors, Messrs. Clarke and Co., Lincoln's-inn-fields, London; and Mr. G. Whitehead, Bury.

HAYWARD, WILLIAM, Ashford, butcher, March 25, April 28: solicitors, Messrs. Butterfield and Co., Gray's-inn.

HILTON, GEORGE, Hythe, grocer, March 25, April 27: solicitors, Messrs. Lawrance and Plews, Old Jewry-chambers.

INGHAM, JOHN, Liverpool, merchant, March 30, April 20: solicitors, Mr. Vincent, Temple, London; and Mr. Robinson, Liverpool.

JARDINE, CHARLES, 29, Basinghall-street, woollen warehouseman, March 25, April 23: solicitors, Messrs. Baylis and Drewe, Basinghall-street.

JOYCE, JAMES, Warwick-lane, corn dealer, March 23, April 27: solicitors, Messrs. Tilson and Co., Coleman-street.

KESTEVAN, FRANCIS, Camden-street, Camden-town, builder, March 25, April 27: solicitor, Mr. Huseon, Ironmonger-lane, Chesham.

NEWORTHY, JOHN, Manchester, stockbroker, March 16, April 16: solicitors, Messrs. Sharpe and Co., 41, Bedford-row, London; and Mr. W. Burdett, Manchester.

PARKER, RICHARD, New-inn-yard, Old Bailey, carrier, March 25, April 27: solicitors, Messrs. Lawrance and Plews, Old Jewry-chambers.

PAULL, HENRY HUGH BEAMS, now or late of Peckham, lodging housekeeper, March 25, April 27: solicitors, Messrs. Sturmy and Simpson, Wellington-street, London-bridge.

ROUND, WILLIAM, Hammersmith, grocer, March 26, April 26: solicitor, Mr. Dods, 102, St. Martin's-lane.

SAW, ROBERT, Hammersmith, grocer, March 24, April 26: solicitor, Mr. Dods, 102, St. Martin's-lane.

WALKDEN, THOMAS, Mansfield, scrivener, April 1 and 30: solicitors, Mr. Moss, Sergeant's-inn, London; and Mr. Branson, Sheffield.

WINDER, JOSEPH, late of Hampson Mills, but now of Salford, bleacher, March 29, April 19: solicitors, Messrs. Chisholme and Co., Lincoln's-inn-fields, London; and Mr. C. Gibson, Manchester.

### SCOTCH SEQUESTERATIONS.

DUNCAN, STEWART, DUNN, ROBERT, and WHYTE, DAVID, Edinburgh, warehousemen, March 23, April 9.

STEVENS, ALEXANDER, sen., and STEVENSON, ALEXANDER, jun., Edinburgh, stockbrokers, March 22, April 22.

### DIVIDENDS.

John Griffiths, of Liverpool, wholesale stationer, first div. of 6s.; at Eldon-chambers, South John-street, Liverpool, on any Thursday.

James Wilson, Liverpool, wine merchant, second div. of 4s. 5d.; at Eldon-chambers, South John-street, Liverpool, on any Thursday.

Joseph Hall, Carlisle, inkkeeper, first div. of 5s.; at 57, Grey-street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, any Saturday—John Jones, Burslem, and Tunstall, ironmonger, first div. of 5s. 6d. in the pound; at 7, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, on any Thursday—Charles Taylor, Birmingham, brush manufacturer, first dividend of 9d.; at 7, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, on any Tuesday before May 31—Thomas Peirson, 4, Warwick-court, Holborn, late of Pickering, money scrivener, first div. of 4s.; at 18, Aldermanbury, on any Saturday—Charles William Giamham, King's Arms-yard, Coleman-street, merchant, first div. of 1s.; at 18, Aldermanbury, on any Saturday.

### BRITISH FUNDS.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per cent. Consols ..	88½	88½	88½	88½	87½	88½
Ditto for Account ..	88½	88½	88½	88½	88½	88½
5 per cent. Reduced ..	90½	—	90½	—	—	—
New 3½ per cent. ..	—	—	92½	88½	—	—
Long Annuities ..	—	—	—	—	—	9½
Bank Stock ..	202	—	205½	204½	—	204
India Stock ..	—	—	—	—	—	250½
Exchequer Bills ..	4pm	3pm	4pm	4pm	4pm	3pm
India Bonds ..	3	—	4	—	—	5

### FOREIGN FUNDS.

Belgian ..	98	Mexican ..	21½
Brazilian ..	86	Peruvian ..	39
Buenos Ayres ..	43½	Portuguese 5 per cents ..	81
Columbian ..	16	Ditto converted ..	33
Danish ..	86½	Russian ..	112
Dutch 2½ per cents ..	56½	Spanish Active ..	23½
Ditto 4 per cents ..	90½	Ditto Passive ..	4½
French 3 per cents ..	77½	Ditto Deferred ..	17½

### RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham & Gloucester ..	123	London & Croydon Trunk ..	21½
Blackwall ..	81	London and Greenwich ..	9½
Bristol and Exeter ..	76½	Manchester and Leeds ..	110
Eastern Counties ..	20½	Midland Counties ..	122
Eastern Union ..	55	Ditto New Shares ..	35
Edinburgh and Glasgow ..	79	Manchester and Birm'g ..	—
Great North of England ..	232½	Midland and Derby ..	94
Great Western ..	118½	Norfolk ..	141
Ditto Half ..	69½	North British ..	35
Ditto Fifths ..	27	South Eastern and Dover ..	39
London & North-Western ..	184	South Western ..	64½
Ditto Quarter Shares ..	21	York and Newcastle ..	36½
London and Brighton ..	54½	York and North Midland ..	87

### MARKETS.

#### MARK LANE, MONDAY, March 15.

Our supply of English wheat this morning was moderate; it sold slowly at 1s. to 2s. per qr. over last Monday's prices, but there was some portion of the supply left over unsold. There were some sales of red wheat made to-day for France at 78s. to 79s. per qr., free on board, 63lbs. per bushel. We note barley fully as dear as this day week, and boiling and grey peas each 1s. per qr. higher. Beans fully 1s. per qr. cheaper. For oats we experienced a good demand at 1s. per qr. advance over last Monday's prices. Floating cargoes of Indian corn were offered at 1s. to 2s. per qr. lower; but floating cargoes of wheat fully maintain their value, whether for France, Belgium, or Ireland.

Wheat, Red ..	74 to 78	Peas, Hog ..	54 to 53
New ..	77 to 80	Maple ..	55 to 60
White ..	77 to 86	Boilers ..	56 to 62
New ..	82 to 87	Beans, Ticks ..	48 to 50
Flour, per sack (Town) 60 ..	65	Pigeons ..	54 to 56
Barley ..	41 to 44	Harrow ..	50 to 52
Malt ..	51 to 54	Oats, Feed ..	31 to 34
Malt, Ordinary ..	67 to 69	Fine ..	37 to 39
Pale ..	77 to 79	Poland ..	— to —
Eye ..	48 to 58	Potato ..	42 to 49

### WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR MARCH 5.

Wheat ..	74s. 4d.
Barley ..	54 11
Oats ..	32 3
Rye ..	55 11
Beans ..	53 1
Peas ..	56 1

### AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF THE SIX WEEKS.

Wheat ..	73s. 6d.
Barley ..	54 1
Oats ..	32 5
Rye ..	59 2
Beans ..	53 6
Peas ..	56 9

### BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, March 15.

Although the weather has become mild, and the attendance of both town and country buyers was not so large, the primeest Scots, Devons, runts, and Herefords were in fair request, at prices about equal to those paid on Monday last, the quotations for the former breed ranging from 4s. to 4s. 3d. per 8lbs.; but the muddling and inferior kinds of beef ruled dull, and, to effect sales, a slight abatement was submitted to by the salesmen. On the whole the mutton trade was steady, at fully, but at nothing quotable beyond, last week's prices. There were a few Dorset lambs in the market; but the sale for them was very heavy, at low prices. Although the supply of calves was small, the veal trade was in a very inactive state, at about stationary prices. Prime small porkers moved off steadily; other qualities of pork slowly, at unaltered quotations.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal).

Beef ..	2s. 8d. to 4s. 2d.	Veal ..	4s. 4d. to 5s. 4d.
Mutton ..	3 6 to 5 0	Pork ..	3 8 to 4 10

### HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

Beasts ..	845	Sheep ..	2,770	Calves ..	148	Pigs ..	290
Friday ..	845	Monday ..	2,770	Friday ..	148	Monday ..	290

### NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, March 15.

Per 8lbs. by the carcass.			
Inferior Beef 2s. 6d. to 2s. 8d.	Inf. Mutton 3s. 6d. to 3s. 8d.	Mid. ditto 3 10 to 4 0	Prime ditto 4 2 to 4 4
Middling do 2 10 to 3 0	Mid. ditto 3 10 to 4 0	Veal 4 2 to 5 4	Small Pork 4 8 to 5 0
Prime large 3 2 to 3 4	Prime ditto 4 2 to 4 4		
Prime small 3 4 to 3 6	Small Pork 4 8 to 5 0		
Large Pork 3 6 to 4 6			

SEEDS, LONDON, Monday.—Having, during the last week, received rather large supplies of red cloverseed from abroad, and a fair quantity of English being exhibited to-day, buyers were enabled to purchase on easier terms. Canaryseed was likewise cheaper, but in prices of other articles no change deserving notice occurred.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday.—The sale for Irish butter during the past week was to a moderate extent; prices remain steady. Holders are very firm, as the quantity now coming from Ireland is very small, most of the country markets being higher than this. Foreign in good supply, and meets a ready sale. We have again to notice an active demand for bacon, and prices rapidly advanced 5s. to 6s. per cwt. For cheese there has been a limited demand during the past week. Cheshire lumps of fair quality, at about 6½s., meet a ready sale, as do really fine things, of which but little is to be had.

BREAD.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 10d. to 10½d.; of household loaf, 8½d. to 9½d. per 4lbs. loaf.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, March 15.—Our market continues steady, and prices tolerably firm. The quantity of hops on offer being rather limited, an improvement in the existing value is not improbable. Sussex pockets, 78s. to 90s.; Weald of Kent, 88s. to 100s.; Mid. and East ditto, 96s. to 130s.

WOOL, CITY, Monday.—The market has been steady at the rates of the last public sales. The imports of wool into London last week were only 280 bales, of which 218 were from Germany, and the rest from Turkey and Monte Video.—LEADS.—The fresh arrivals from Germany, since the opening of the Elbe, have caused rather more activity in this market, although the business done has not been to any very great amount. Prices remain very firm.—WAXFIELD.—We cannot report any relief to the depression that has existed in the trade for the last two months. Sales are on a very limited scale.

COTTON, LIVERPOOL, Saturday.—Cotton has been in very limited demand throughout this week which closes heavily at a decline of ¼d. to ½d. per lb. from last week's quotations of American. Egyptian continues in fair demand, but barely supports last week's quotations. Brazil is neglected, and heavy of sale at former rates. In Surat a fair business has been done, but at a decline of ¼d. per lb. The sales of the week amount to 18,100 bales, including 2,000 American on speculation, with 900 American and 250 Surat for export.

TALLOW, LONDON, March 15.—There is still a full average amount of business doing in the market, and the quotations are firmly supported. P.Y.C. on the spot is quoted at 51s. 3d., and for small parcels of very fine 51s. 6d. per cwt. For arrival the price is 46s. 3d. to 43s. 6d. per cwt. Town tallow is in moderate supply, and fair request, at 50s. 6d. net cash. Rough fat is now 2s. 10½d. per 8lbs.

HIDES, LEADENHALL.—Market hides, 64lb. to 72lb., 3d. to 3½d. per lb.; ditto, 72lb. to 80lb., 3½d. to 3¾d.; ditto, 80lb. to 88lb., 3¾d. to 4d.; ditto, 88lb. to 96lb., 4d. to 5d.; ditto, 96lb. to 104lb., 5d. to 6d.; Calf-skins, each, 4s. 6d. to 5s. 9d.; Horse hides, 13s.; Lambs, 2s. 4d. to 2s. 10d.; Shearings, 1s. 6d. to 2s.

### HAY, SMITHFIELD, March 12.—At per load of 36 trusses.

Meadow ..	48s. to 76s.	Oat Straw ..	30s. to 34s.
Clover Hay ..	68s. to 96s.	Wheat Straw ..	00s. to 00s.

### COAL EXCHANGE, March 12.

Stewart's, 21s. 6d.; Hutton's, 21s. 3d.; Braddyl's Hutton's, 20s. 9d.; Lambton's, 21s. 0d.; West Hartley's, 16s. d. 6 ships arrived this week, 371.

### GROCERIES, LONDON, Tuesday, March 16.

COFFEE.—400 bags good middling Java, in auction, sold at 33s. to 34s., and low to good ordinary, 26s. to 27s. 6d. per cwt. By private contract, Ceylon good ordinary are selling at 42s. to 43s. per cwt.

SUGAR.—The trade bought 150 hhds. and tierces, by private contract, in the British plantation market. There was more business doing in refined goods; standard lumps selling at 64s. to 64s. 6d., and brown grocery at 63s. to 63s. 6d. per cwt. 6,000 bags Madras, offered in auction, went off at a decline of 6d. to 1s. per cwt.; good yellow, 42s. 6d. to 43s.; low to middling, 39s. 6d. to 41s.; low to good brown, 37s. to 38s. 6d. per cwt.

### ADVERTISEMENTS.

#### FENDERS, STOVES, and FIRE IRONS.—The

LARGEST ASSORTMENT OF STOVES, KITCHEN RANGES, and FENDERS, as well as General Ironmongery, in the world, is now on Sale at WILLIAM S. BURTON'S (late RIPPON and BURTON'S) extensive warehouses. Bright steel fenders to 4 feet, from 30s. each; ditto ditto, with or-molu ornaments, from 60s.; rich bronzed scroll ditto, with steel bar, 10s. 6d.; iron fenders, 3 feet, 4s. 6d., 4 feet, 6s.; ditto, bronzed, and fitted with standards, 3 feet, 9s.; 4 feet, 11s.; wrought iron kitchen fenders, 3 feet, 4s. 6d., 4 feet, 6s.; bright register stoves, with bronzed ornaments, and two sets of bars, from 95s.; ditto ditto, with or-molu ornaments, from 49s.; black dining-room register stoves, 2 feet, 18s., 3 feet, 27s.; bed-room register stoves, 2 feet, 16s., 3 feet, 24s. The new economical thermo stove, with fender and radiating hearth-plate, from 48s.; fire-irons for chambers 1s. 9d. per set; handsome ditto, with cut heads, 6s. 6d.; newest pattern, with elegant bronzed heads, 11s. A variety of fire-irons, with or-molu and richly cut heads, at proportionate prices. Any article in the furnishing ironmongery 30 per cent. under any other house. The money returned for every article not approved of. Detailed catalogues, with engravings, sent (per post) free.

WILLIAM S. BURTON'S (late RIPPON and BURTON'S) stock of general furnishing ironmongery is literally the largest in the world, and as no language can be employed to give a correct idea of its variety and extent, purchasers are invited to call and inspect it.—39, Oxford-street (corner of Newman-street). Established in Wells-street, 1820.

#### APSLEY PELLATT and Co. (late Pellatt and

Green) respectfully inform the public that, at their manufactory, Holland-street, Blackfriars, they retail GLASS, China, and Earthenware, Chandeliers, Lustres, and every variety of English and Foreign Ornamental Vases, Tazas, &c. Their showrooms are equal to any in London, and their stock of the most superior and approved description. Foreign orders and outfits executed with despatch. N.B. No establishment in the City. Western Branch 58, Baker-street, Portman-square.

Now ready, price 3d.,

### A BRIEF and FINAL APPEAL to the CONSTITUENTS of the LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

By ANDREW REED, D.D.

London: WARD and Co., 27, Paternoster-row.

### BAINES'S LETTER ON STATE EDUCATION,

at the further reduced price of Sixpence.

WARD and Co., and SIMPKIN and MARSHALL.

### LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the BOARD of DIRECTORS, held at the Mission-house, Blomfield-street, on Monday, March 1, 1847, it was resolved—

1. That while this Board feels that it might safely rest on the facts detailed in their "Reply" to the "Appeal" of the Rev. Dr. Reed, the defence of the efficiency and character of their beloved brethren, the Secretaries, against his unjust and ungenerous attacks, it deems it a sacred duty to express a distinct and strong opinion of their qualifications. The Directors, from close and constant observation of the official conduct of the Secretaries in the most delicate and complicated affairs, as well as in the ordinary duties of their office, cheerfully bear testimony to their sagacity in counsel, promptitude in action, untiring energy, and thoroughly effective service. This testimony the Directors feel assured is sustained by the concurrent judgment of their constituents, supported by the Documents framed by the Secretaries, corroborated by the Report of a Committee of intelligent and firm friends of the Society, assembled in May, 1846, and strengthened by the known sentiments of their honoured Missionaries, between whom and the Foreign Secretary there exists unbroken confidence and sincere affection.

2. That, without discussing the abstract question of the propriety of the union of the pastorate and the secretariats, the Directors express strongly their approval of existing arrangements; and, without pronouncing an opinion on the question of the economy of salaries and of unpaid agency, refer to the experiment made twenty years since, of an unremunerated Foreign Secretaryship, at which period, when both the Society's income and agency were limited to half their existing extent, the expenses of that department exceeded those of the present time. But the Directors cannot withhold their decided condemnation of Dr. Reed's insinuations and aspersions regarding Messrs. Tidman and Freeman; and though they might confidently leave the character of their brethren to the judgment of all who know them, they give an unequivocal denial to the statement relative to Mr. Freeman, who, with a sacrifice of feeling that every minister may appreciate, relinquished the charge of an attached church, not for lucre, but from love to the Missionary cause, and with a salary scarcely equal to the income he relinquished. Of Mr. Tidman's amount of labour, the Directors deem it sufficient to say that greatly exceeds the service which, on accepting office, he was required to discharge, inasmuch as the whole duties of the Foreign Department, which for some years were divided between two officers, now devolve entirely on him, while, in the judgment of the Board, his salary is not an equivalent for his unceasing vigilance and indefatigable activity. While the Directors deeply regret the attacks that have been made on their Secretaries, they rejoice that they have been the occasion of eliciting this expression of their united esteem for these respected brethren, whom they regard as acting under the highest motives of Christian zeal.

3. That, with such views of their efficiency and disinterestedness, the Directors assure their honoured and esteemed friends, the Secretaries, of their sincere sympathy with them under attacks so entirely unfounded; of their unshaken confidence in their integrity, principles, and aptitude for their work; and of their prayerful desire that they may be long spared to aid the Board with their counsels and efforts, and find their richest reward where they seek it—in the approval of their Divine Master, and in the success of those measures which they initiate or conduct.

4. That the Resolutions passed at the Special Meeting of the Congregational Church, in Barbican, held February 8, 1847, be added to the foregoing, and that both series of resolutions be appended to the "Reply"; and, also, that they be advertised.

THOMAS M. COOMBS, Chairman.

### TESTIMONIAL OF CONFIDENCE AND AFFECTION

From the Congregational Church in Barbican, to

THE REV. ARTHUR TIDMAN.

At a numerous Meeting of the Members of the Church, specially convened, Monday, Feb. 8th, 1847, the Rev. Henry Townley in the Chair, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

I. That this church having seen an appeal, by the Rev. Dr. Reed, to the constituency of the London Missionary Society, in which certain statements are made, reflecting upon their pastor, by representing him as "incapable of fulfilling the duties arising from a charge," and pursuing a course "diametrically to his church," while holding his official connexion with that Society, feel constrained, by a sense of justice and duty, to declare, that in calmly reviewing the history of the period since that official connexion has existed, they can confidently assert, that neither the pastoral labours of the Rev. A. Tidman, nor his ministerial efficiency, have suffered any diminution; in proof of which they have the satisfaction of stating, that notwithstanding the removal of very many of their members, by death or other causes, the number now in church fellowship is about fourfold that of the period at which he commenced his pastoral labours, and they are happy in being able to add, that the love and harmony of their fellowship has been uninterrupted.

II. That the members of this church, while disclaiming the spirit of self-commendation, feel it incumbent, as a proof of the interest which their pastor has inspired among his people towards the London Missionary Society, and of the zeal and success with which he has advocated its cause, and that of other Religious Institutions, to state the following facts:—

1. That, during the period of his pastorate, eleven members of this church have devoted themselves to the service of Christ among the heathen, all of whom have maintained an unimpeachable Christian reputation.

2. That, during his ministry, the annual contributions in aid of the London Missionary Society have increased from £105 to £300, this latter sum being the average of the last ten years; while the ratio of contribution has also increased during the period of that official connexion which has been the subject of animadversion. And

3. That his advocacy of home objects has also been attended with results equally gratifying, the amount annually collected for British Missions having been greatly augmented; while the efforts of the church and congregation in aid of education, local Christian instruction, and various other benevolent objects, have been widely extended.

III. That under the deep conviction derived from a thoughtful and temperate review of these facts, the members of this church hereby declare their unabated confidence in their beloved pastor; their continued warm attachment to his person; their most affectionate sympathy under the unprovoked and ungenerous attack which he has recently suffered; and their fervent desire that his future course, through the blessing of God, may be as honourable and efficient as the past.

IV. That a suitable testimonial be presented to the Rev. Arthur Tidman, to mark the grateful feelings entertained towards him for his untiring and successful efforts, during a period of nineteen years, to promote the best interests of the church and congregation, and the various institutions connected therewith; and that the members of the congregation be invited to unite with the church in this expression of Christian regard.

V. That the cordial and respectful thanks of this meeting are hereby presented to the Rev. Henry Townley, for his kindness in accepting the invitation of the church and its pastor to preside on this occasion, for the efficient manner in which he has occupied the chair, and for the full and generous expression of his sympathy and



## BAPTIST CHURCHES IN JAMAICA.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

Jamaica, Feb. 5, 1847.

SIR.—In your paper of the 9th of December last, there appears an advertisement headed "Baptist Churches in Jamaica," signed by Mr. Joseph Fletcher, as Treasurer of Mr. Phillippo's Committee. In that advertisement my name stands conspicuously mentioned, in connexion with statements so entirely at variance with truth, that I should be wanting in common self-respect were I to permit them to pass without refutation.

Mr. Fletcher speaks of the Baptist Missionary Committee having received from Mr. Phillippo "a full and entire indemnity against all charges whatsoever that had arisen in or from proceedings instituted by the Rev. Thomas Dowson in the Court of Chancery in Jamaica, to legalize and render available a trust deed concocted by Mr. Dowson and his associates, for the purpose of possessing themselves of the mission premises, school-rooms, and chapel, and removing Mr. Phillippo from the pastorate."

Now there are two very gross mis-statements in this short paragraph. In the first place, the proceedings in Chancery were not instituted by me; and, in the second place, I never concocted, nor had anything to do with the concoction, of any trust deed.

But what will Mr. Joseph Fletcher and his benevolent and confiding friends think, when they learn that the Chancery proceedings were actually instituted by Mr. Phillippo himself; and that, too, to legalize and render available a trust deed concocted by him? Such, Sir, is the fact, as Mr. Fletcher may readily ascertain by a little personal inquiry, perhaps at the Mission-house, where all the necessary information, without doubt, is to be found; and he may at the same time discover that I had nothing to do with the Chancery proceedings until Mr. Phillippo, unfortunately for me, thought proper to drag me into the contest by making me one of the defendants to the suit! I have no doubt that Mr. Fletcher has been misled in this matter by statements he has received from this country; but would it not have been just as well for Mr. Fletcher, instead of blindly relying on the mere declarations of an interested party, to have instituted a fair and candid inquiry into the merits of the case, before he committed himself, both morally and in a pecuniary sense, to the extent he has done?

At all events, I protest against Mr. Fletcher sitting in judgment on my conduct on the bare testimony of an avowed enemy. I protest against his stigmatizing any proceedings of mine as "iniquitous," and I protest against his branding conscientious and respectable members of my congregation as "unjust and wicked men," merely because they happen to be opposed to what they consider the selfishness and worldly-mindedness of the Rev. Mr. Phillippo.

I have not as yet seen "the case" to which reference is made in this and a previous advertisement, and which appears to have been extensively circulated by Mr. Fletcher for the purpose of invoking public sympathy and pecuniary aid on behalf of Mr. Phillippo; but if I am to judge of its contents from the sample afforded in the present instance, I apprehend that the statements on which "the case" is founded are of a very unscrupulous character. Mr. Fletcher may rest assured that the "existence of religious liberty in Jamaica" will be in no way endangered, nor the "expulsion of the mission" any way risked by Mr. Phillippo's being removed from the pastorate of the Spanish Town Baptist Church! The very converse of the position might, perhaps, be nearer the truth.

It is, in point of fact, quite clear, that up to this hour Mr. Phillippo's supporters in England are essentially ignorant of the real merits of the case. They have been deluded by grave misrepresentations of some of the facts, and the wilful suppression of others. They appear to have relied, without any doubt or reservation, on every assertion of the very party who was the most deeply interested in making out his own case.

These gentlemen ought to know that the simple object contended for by the Spanish Town Baptists is the right of choosing their own minister. It is this claim which has led to the present disastrous and injurious litigation, with its fearful list of consequential evils. The simple facts are these:—For many years back there had been a silent feeling of discontent ranking in the minds of a large proportion of the members of the church, in relation to Mr. Phillippo's general conduct and demeanour. Into the cause of this estrangement it is unnecessary to enter here. I was in no way connected with it, as it was founded on circumstances which occurred prior to my arrival in the country; and I am assured by the people, that even if I had never come to the country, this feeling of dissatisfaction would, sooner or later, have burst out into an open rupture. During Mr. Phillippo's absence from the island (two years), I supplied his place as assistant minister. On his return I became co-pastor with him by his own appointment, and with the consent and approbation of the entire church. In the beginning of 1845 a dispute occurred between Mr. Phillippo and myself—a dispute, by the way, originating in a flagrant violation of one of his positive engagements with me. It was on this occasion that the people took the opportunity of giving expression to their long-suppressed discontent at Mr. Phillippo's arbitrary proceedings—a feeling which was no doubt much increased by his unjust conduct towards me. The deacons and leaders interfered. They claimed the right, on the part of the members of the church, to decide which of the two should continue in the pastorate. This claim Mr. Phillippo resisted. The church then divided, and a very large majority immediately placed themselves under my ministry. Their next step was to place their case in the hands of a respectable solicitor. By his advice a new trust-deed was framed, in the name of one of the surviving trustees—the other resident trustee at that time declining to act on either side. This deed was simply to appoint new trustees, to supply the place of those who had died off since the original deed had been executed.

Mr. Phillippo, on learning what was being done by the people, induced the other surviving trustee (Hall) to sever from his neutrality, and lend his name to another trust-deed in which he (Mr. Phillippo) appointed trustees of his own nomination.

Mr. Phillippo subsequently instituted the proceedings in Chancery to nullify the people's deed, and legalize his own.

The Vice-Chancellor, in giving his decision, partly granted the injunction applied for, distinctly recognized the right of the people to elect their own minister, and that the majority ought to decide the question.

In accordance with this opinion or suggestion, after giving due public notice, an election was held, at which, out of a church comprising, at the utmost, from sixteen to seventeen hundred members, upwards of eleven hundred there and then recorded their votes in my favour; and about two hundred more, who were unable to be present on that day, afterwards added their names to the list, making in all about thirteen hundred. Not a vote was recorded for Mr. Phillippo. He held aloof entirely—merely sending one of his supporters to the place of election to read a protest against the election. He has since instituted another Chancery proceeding to invalidate this election, the decision on which has not yet been pronounced. It appears, however, that he claims the right of bringing all the "members, communicants, and adherents," of other and distant churches under his control, to vote for his election to the pastorate of Spanish Town!—a proceeding which I scarcely think would meet the approbation even of his over-partial friends in England.

Such, Sir, is a fair and faithful history of this very painful transaction. It is of course a mere outline, but it embraces all the most prominent and important features of the case. And if, after all this, Mr. Fletcher and his friends determine to continue supplying Mr. Phillippo with the means of prolonging a hopeless struggle, be it so; but I do trust that in future Mr. Fletcher will not affix his respectable and influential name to statements casting such obloquy and censure on myself and others without, at all events, first ascertaining the accuracy of such statements; and that, too, on some authority less questionable than that on which he has hitherto relied.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,  
THOMAS DOWSON.

In royal 18mo, 4s. 6d. cloth,

**RELIGION AND EDUCATION IN AMERICA;**  
with Notices of the State and Prospects of American Unitarianism, Popery, and African Colonization. By J. D. LANG, D.D., Senior Minister of the Presbyterian Church in New South Wales, &c.

"Curious and solid information."—*Speccator*.

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WARD and Co., Paternoster-row.

## GOVERNMENT EDUCATIONAL MEASURE.

**A PUBLIC MEETING, held at the NEW-HALL, LEICESTER, on THURSDAY, March 11, 1847, to take into consideration the Proposed Scheme of her Majesty's Ministers for bringing the Education of the People under Government support and control.**

H. F. COLEMAN, Esq., of Evington-hall, in the Chair,

it was unanimously resolved:—

On the motion of the Rev. Joseph Smedmore, seconded by the Rev. C. Todd:—

1. That, while this meeting takes a deep interest in the education of the people, as vitally concerning their individual welfare, and the welfare of society, it deprecates the interference of Government in the matter, as in any circumstances foreign to its province, little likely to be beneficial, and, under the present circumstances of our country, impracticable without serious detriment to large classes of the community; and regards the measure of her Majesty's Ministers, embodied in a recent minute of Council now before the House of Lords, with unmingled astonishment and grave alarm.

On the motion of the Rev. George Legge, LL.D.; seconded by Joseph Cripps, Esq.; and supported by the Rev. R. W. Hamilton, D.D. LL.D., of Leeds:—

2. That this meeting is of opinion, that the interference of Government was most uncalled for at a time when religionists of all classes were making vigorous efforts to increase on every side the means of education for the people, by voluntary contributions; that it views with intense reprobation the scheme of the Minute in Council, as involving an outrage on the consciences of many of those religionists—taxing the already overtaxed for the education of the people in what they deem to be error—and as giving so much additional power and patronage to the ruling Church, at the expense and to the injury, if not the destruction, of the interests of all who dissent from it; that it records its protest against it, as the virtual setting up of another ecclesiastical establishment, and another step towards the Erastian policy of stipendiaryizing all the teachers of religion, retaining still the supremacy for the Episcopal clergy.

On the motion of the Rev. C. Stovel, of London; seconded by the Rev. J. P. Mursell, of Leicester:—

3. That this meeting looks on the plan before the country as having been most insidiously introduced without due notice, and as if it was no plan at all—as most unconstitutionally claiming sanction without the formality of an act of Parliament—as most despotically seeking to invest certain parties with enormous patronage, to be used at their discretion, without responsibility to the representatives of the people; a plan, therefore, full of all the vices of tyranny and of portentous omen to the liberties of Britain;—and, that the fact that this plan has been adopted and propounded by statesmen of professedly liberal opinions, the advocates of reform, the redressers of the people's grievances, and the champions of the people's rights—and adopted and propounded at a time when famine is stalking through one portion of the Empire, and all classes are beginning to feel the pressure of serious embarrassments—fills this meeting with regret, amazement, and indignation.

On the motion of Mr. J. F. Winks, seconded by the Rev. G. Miall, of Ullesthorpe:—

4. That a petition founded on the foregoing resolutions be adopted by this meeting, signed by the Chairman on its behalf, and forwarded to the members for the Borough for presentation to the House of Commons.

HENRY FREEMAN COLEMAN, Chairman.

## IRISH EVANGELICAL SOCIETY.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE RELIEF OF THE STARVING POOR IN IRELAND.

**THE COMMITTEE** acknowledge, with great thankfulness, the liberal contributions which continue to be remitted to them for mitigating the appalling distress, which still deepens and spreads in our ill-fated sister country. The gentlemen composing their deputations have completed the work assigned them. They have witnessed many heart-rending scenes of wretchedness and woe. They have seen, too, the unspeakable benefit which has already resulted from English sympathy and relief. Multitudes have been saved from perishing. They have, where practicable, organized Relief Committees, composed of trustworthy persons of different denominations, to whom, in concert with the Agents of the Society, will be entrusted the distribution of the Churches' bounty. Remittances have been, and will continue to be, made to such Committees, who have it in charge to examine into the circumstances of each case, and, with very rare exceptions, to administer relief in food, and not in money. There is little hope that the calamity will abate. Months must elapse before any supply can be derived from the soil. It is, therefore, for British Christians to persevere in their course of benevolence, if they would save alive those who are still "ready to perish."

THOMAS JAMES, Secretary.

Blomfield-street, Finsbury, March 15, 1847.

	£	s.	d.
Amount already advertised	7,349	9	3
Rev. J. P. Wilson and Friends, Hurstmonceaux	3	18	0
A Friend, per Mr. J. Ross, Tain, N. B.	0	10	0
Toubridge, after a Sermon by Rev. C. F. Vardy (sacramental collection)	4	10	6
James Tyrie, Esq., 8, Newington-green	5	5	6
Rev. J. H. Evans and Friends, John-street	25	0	0
Per Rev. J. Tippetts, Gravesend, additional	1	0	0
Milstead and Newnham, by Rev. J. Dean	2	4	0
Rev. J. Moreland and Friends, Petersfield	8	1	0
Newton Burgoland, Leicestershire (Independent Chapel)	1	8	0
Southend, Essex, part of collection	0	18	0
Rev. W. Gear and Family, Bradford, Wilts	21	0	0
A Friend at Forres, N. B.	1	0	0
Rev. J. Sibree and Friends, Hull, part	5	0	0
Rev. H. Richard and Friends, Marlborough Chapel	22	12	8
Rev. H. J. Bunn and Friends, Abergavenny, and £5 for the Scotch	10	15	6
Independent Chapel, Thorne, Yorkshire (by Mr. Moffatt, Rotherham College)	4	1	0
Rev. J. Young and Friends, Wallington	2	0	8
Rev. J. Burrell and Friends, Painswick	3	5	0
Mr. J. Walker and Friends, Bowden Downs, Altrincham	3	0	0
Independent Chapel, Cassett, Essex, by Mr. B. Best, Homerton College	1	5	2
Calvinistic Methodists in county of Carmarthen, per D. Charles, Esq., on account	20	0	0
Rev. D. Skinner and Friends, Huddersfield, additional	5	1	6
Rev. T. Savill and Friends, Wareham, additional	1	10	0
S. Sparke Amery, Esq., Ashburton	5	0	0
Mrs. E. Guest, per ditto	5	0	0

**THE ATRAPILATORY, OR LIQUID HAIR DYE;** the only dye that really answers for all colours, and does not require re-doing but as the hair grows, as it never fades or acquires that unnatural red or purple tint common to all other dyes.

**BOTANIC WATER and BEAR'S GREASE.**—When the hair is becoming thin and falling off, the only effectual remedy besides shaving the head is the use of the two above-named articles, applied alternately—the botanic water to cleanse the roots from scurf, and as a stimulant, and the bear's grease as a nourisher.

**THE NEW TOOTH-PICK BRUSH,** thoroughly cleansing between the teeth, when used up and down, and polishing the surface when used crossways. The hair warranted never to come out.

**THE UNION and TRIPLE HAIR-BRUSHES.**  
**THE DOUBLE ANTI-PRESSURE NAIL-BRUSH.**  
**THE MEDIUM SHAVING-BRUSH.**

**THE RAILWAY STROP and POWDER.**  
The above new and elegant articles, in addition to a very extensive assortment of beautiful PERFUMES, are the sole MANUFACTURES and INVENTIONS of Messrs. BOSS and SONS, 119 and 120, Bishopsgate-street, London.

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Complete Security afforded to the Assured by means of an ample subscribed capital, and the large fund accumulated from the premiums on upwards of 6,000 Policies.

Half the amount only of the annual premium required during the first five years, the remaining half premiums being paid out of the profits, which, after five years, will be annually divided among the Assured.

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The lowest rates consistent with security to the Assured. An increasing scale of premiums, peculiarly adapted to cases where assurances are effected for the purpose of securing Loans or Debts.

Half-credit rates of Premium, whereby credit is given for half the amount of premium for seven years, to be then paid off, or remain a charge upon the Policy, at the option of the holder.

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Annual Premiums required for an Assurance of £100 for the whole Term of Life.

MUTUAL ASSURANCE BRANCH.			PROPRIETARY BRANCH.		
Age.	Half Premium first five years.	Whole Premium after five years.	Age.	Half Premium first seven years.	Whole Premium after seven years.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
20	1 0 0	2 0 0	20	0 18 0	1 16 0
25	1 2 2	2 4 4	25	0 19 7	1 19 3
30	1 4 11	2 9 10	30	1 1 9	2 3 6
35	1 8 6	2 17 0	35	1 4 11	2 9 10
40	1 13 3	3 6 6	40	1 9 2	2 18 4
45	1 19 6	3 19 0	45	1 14 10	3 9 8
50	2 7 9	4 15 6	50	2 2 6	4 5 0
55	2 18 10	5 17 8	55	2 13 9	5 5 6

PETER MORISON, Resident Director.

## FAMILIES THEIR OWN BREWERS.—The

following is the Certificate of Andrew Ure, Esq., M.D., F.R.S., &c.:—"I hereby certify that I have examined the Malt Extract, as also the Pale Malt Extract with Hop for Brewing Beer, and the Brown Malt Extract for Brewing Porter, as recently made at the factory of the British Malt Extract Company, and I find them all to be exceedingly well prepared and perfectly adapted to the purpose of making the above two beverages of the best quality and in the simplest manner."—13, Charlotte-street, Bedford-square, 8th Dec., 1846. These extracts enable private individuals to make fine Home-Brewed Ale and Porter, without employing any Brewing Utensils. It has only to be dissolved in hot water and fermented. Sold in jars for samples and other purposes, at 1s. to 1s. 6d.; and in bottles, for brewing NINE to EIGHTEEN Gallons, and upwards, at 6s. 6d. and 12s. 6d. each, by the BRITISH NATIONAL MALT EXTRACT COMPANY, 7, Nicholas-lane, Lombard-street, London; Petty, Wood, and Co., 12, King William-street, City; Wix and Sons, 22, Leadenhall-street; Batty and Co., 15, Finsbury-pavement; Decastro and Peach, 65, Piccadilly; Hockin and Co., 38, Duke-street, Manchester-square; and Oilmen and Grocers generally.

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**NATIONAL BREWING;** a Guide to the Use of CONCENTRATED MALT and HOP EXTRACT, for BREWING AND WINE MAKING; to which is added MEDICAL OPINIONS relative to the virtues of Malt and Hops.

London: DICKS and Co., 7, Nicholas-lane, City.

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## ROWLANDS' MACASSAR OIL.

This elegant, fragrant, and transparent oil, in its preservative, restorative, and beautifying qualities for the human hair, is unequalled throughout the whole world. Price 3s. 6d., 7s. Family bottles (equal to four small), 10s. 6d., and double that size, 21s. per bottle.

## ROWLANDS' HAIR WASH.

This is a preparation from the choicest Oriental Herbs, of peculiarly mild and detergent properties. It pleasantly and effectually cleanses the hair and skin of the head of scurf and every species of impurity, and imparts a delicate fragrance. It entirely supercedes the necessity for using the fine comb, so injurious to the tender skin of the head; and from its beneficial effects on the health, together with the grateful and refreshing sensation it imparts, and being perfectly innocent in its nature, will prove an invaluable appendage to the toilet, and the purposes of the nursery.—3s. 6d. per bottle.

## ROWLANDS' MELACOMIA;

The most successful liquid preparation ever known in this or any other country, for dyeing the hair of the head, whiskers, moustaches, and eyebrows a natural and permanent brown or black, so exactly resembling the natural colour of the hair as to defy detection. It is perfectly innocent in its nature, is free from unpleasant smell, and can be used by any lady or gentleman with the greatest ease and secrecy. Its effect is so permanent, that neither water nor perspiration will influence it; and it is entirely free from those properties (usual in hair dyes) which give an unnatural red or purple tint to the hair. Price 5s.

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An Oriental balsamic preparation, of singular efficacy in rendering the skin soft, clear, and fair, bestowing a healthy rosy hue on the complexion, and eradicating all cutaneous eruptions, freckles, tan, and discolorations.

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A fragrant White Powder for the Teeth, compounded of the choicest and most recherché ingredients of the Oriental herbal; of inestimable virtue for preserving and beautifying the Teeth and strengthening the Gums, and for giving sweetness and perfume to the breath. Price 2s. 9d. per box.

## ROWLANDS' ALSANA EXTRACT,

For immediately relieving the most violent tooth-ache, gum-boils, and swelled face, and which by constantly using prevents those maladies. In the anguish of excruciating pain it affords instantaneous relief. It is perfectly innocent in its nature, and is under the sanction of the first physicians.—Price 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 10s. 6d. per bottle.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION.**—Unprincipled Individuals, for the sake of gaining a trifling profit, vend the most spurious compounds, under the names of "Macassar Oil," "Kalydor," and "Odonto;" some under the implied sanction of royalty, and the government departments, with similar attempts at deception. They copy the labels, advertisements, and testimonials (substituting fictitious names and addresses for the real) of the original preparations. It is therefore highly necessary to see that the word "ROWLANDS" is on the wrapper of each article.

\* \* All others are FRAUDULENT IMITATIONS

The Genuine articles are sold by every respectable Perfumer and Chemist throughout the kingdom.

## SMITH'S PATENT ADHESIVE ENVELOPES.

The demand for these Envelopes is so great, and they are now so highly appreciated by Noblemen, Gentlemen, the Managers of Public Institutions, &c., &c., that several unprincipled persons are offering for sale a worthless imitation, and others are representing themselves to be "Agents for the Sale of Smith's Patent Adhesive Envelopes," whereas, J. SMITH has no appointed Agent. To prevent imposition, therefore, the Public are respectfully requested to observe that every Envelope bears the inscription: "SMITH'S PATENT ADHESIVE, 42, Rathbone-place, London." All others are fraudulent imitations.

N.B. For India communication these Envelopes are invaluable.



## FAMINE IN IRELAND.

**THE COMMITTEE** of the CONGREGATIONAL UNION of IRELAND return their most respectful and grateful thanks to those friends in England and Wales who have so generously and liberally responded to their appeals on behalf of the famishing poor of Ireland. The agents of the Union are now actively engaged in the judicious distribution of the sums placed at their disposal. Wherever it is practicable, they administer relief in food rather than in money; and, by the aid of British benevolence, they are enabled not only to feed the hungry but also to clothe the naked, large quantities of clothing having been forwarded to them from various parts of England.

The Committee regret to state that the sympathy and aid which they have already so largely and liberally shared will require to be generously continued for several months to come. The ravages of famine, and disease, and death, are extending with frightful rapidity. The people are dying in thousands; and the fearful state of things which was, till lately, chiefly confined to the west and south-west of Ireland, is now becoming general. The province of Ulster, which, owing to its tenant-right, its linen trade, and its industrious Protestant population, has always been the Goshen of Ireland, is now involved in the general calamity. The linen manufacture is at a stand; and, as there are no public works in that province, the people are dying of starvation. The Committee would, therefore, respectfully and earnestly entreat the friends of humanity in England to continue to furnish them with the means of saving from death the thousands who, without immediate relief, must inevitably perish.

Amount already received .....	£2464 11 8½
Sacramental collection, Tintwistle, Rev. R. G. Millen .....	6 11 0
Rev. Mr. Giles, and friends, Southmolton, Devon, per Rev. Jerome Clapp .....	6 4 1
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**THE Minister and Members of the Christian** church recently assembling in Well-street Chapel respectfully submit the following brief statement to the kind consideration of Christian friends.

The church has recently been deprived of the place of worship they had occupied more than forty years by the expiration of the lease.

The chapel has been taken down, and it is understood that the trustees of the large estate on which it stood will not sanction the erection, on the property they manage, of any Nonconforming place of worship.

Arrangements are made for the erection of several new streets, and the population of the district being thus likely to extend, the members of the church deem it a matter of imperative obligation to make provision for the religious wants of a rapidly extending district. They have succeeded in obtaining a most suitable site for a new chapel in the immediate vicinity of the old one, on moderate terms, and on a long lease.

A Committee of Management has been formed, who guarantee the faithful application of the funds to be raised, and also that the chapel, when completed, shall be regularly placed in trust for the use of a Congregational church.

The building is now rapidly progressing, and the chapel will be opened, by Divine permission, in July next. The members of the church and congregation have engaged to raise, from their limited means, the sum of £300, and they now respectfully and earnestly appeal to their Christian friends, believing that their case—involving the rights of conscience—furnishes special reason why prompt and generous aid should be given.

They have much pleasure in referring to the following recommendations from esteemed and honoured ministers who have already encouraged the effort by recommendations and liberal subscriptions; and other brethren, it is expected, will cordially unite in this appeal.

## COMMITTEE.

Rev. James Carlile, D.D., Hackney.  
Rev. R. Ferguson, LL.D., Stratford.  
Rev. J. Raban, Hackney.  
St. Geo. D'Arcy Irvine, Esq., Secretary, Surrey-street, City.  
E. Charteris, Esq., Clapton.  
William Loynes, Esq., Homerton.  
W. Webb, Esq., Hackney.  
Mr. J. Harrison, sen., Hackney.  
Rev. Henry Harrison, Pastor of the Church, Grove-street, Hackney.

\* To whom subscriptions may be sent, which will be gratefully acknowledged.

The following, among other friends, have already subscribed:—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Loynes .....	50	0	0
Friends, per ditto .....	50	0	0
Rev. J. Carlile, D.D., and personal friends .....	50	0	0
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"JAMES CARLILE.

"Hackney, Feb. 22, 1847."

"Homerton, Feb. 23, 1847."

"I am happy to follow Dr. Carlile in the recommendation of this effort for the building of Hampden Chapel."

"J. PYE SMITH."

"And I follow the preceding."

"F. A. COX."

## APPRENTICESHIP SOCIETY.

**THE HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING** of the Governors, Members, and Subscribers of this Society, "for Assisting to Apprentice the Children of Dissenting Ministers of Evangelical Sentiments," will be held at CHESHUNT COLLEGE ROOMS, Blomfield-street, Finsbury-circus, on MONDAY, the 29th of MARCH, 1847, at Eleven o'clock, when FOUR Candidates, from the subjoined list, will be elected to the benefit of the Institution.

By order of the Committee,  
C. J. METCALFE, } Secretaries.  
JAMES SPONG, }

The Poll will commence at Eleven, and close at Twelve o'clock precisely.

1. Sarah Ann Jones.	9. Ebenezer Ault.
2. James Wilkins.	10. Catharine Parry.
3. Cephas Matthews.	11. Thomas Coleman.
4. George Willmore.	12. Eliza Searle.
5. Daniel Powell.	13. T. Furneaux Jordan.
6. Hannah Rees.	14. Daniel Slater.
7. David Jones.	15. Angelina Elizabeth Peuteney.
8. Ebenezer Allison Selbie.	

N.B. The votes of the Unsuccessful Candidates will be carried to their account at the next Election.

## THE NEW ASYLUM FOR INFANT ORPHANS, STAMFORD-HILL.

**THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY DINNER** of this CHARITY will be held at the LONDON TAVERN, on THURSDAY, the 6th of MAY next.

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## GOVERNMENT EDUCATION SCHEME.

**AT a MEETING** of the MEMBERS of the BOARD of BAPTIST MINISTERS, residing in and about the Cities of London and Westminster, held at the Mission-house, Moorgate-street, the following Resolutions were passed unanimously:—

I. That, whilst the members of this Board, in common with ministers of other denominations, have proved themselves true friends of popular education when based on right principles, and are ready to co-operate in the use of all proper means for the further diffusion of Scriptural and useful knowledge, they are constrained to offer the most strenuous opposition to the present scheme, for the following reasons:—

1. Because, considering the vast increase of schools of every description designed for the children of the poor, and the improved quality of the instruction afforded in them, together with the fact that the number of children educated has trebled during the last twenty-eight years, there exists no adequate cause for such an extensive scheme of Government interference.

2. Because, were the emergency, in this respect, as great as it has been represented to be, it is not the province of Government to educate the people.

3. Because the present scheme, while professing to confer a boon on the people, will, in fact, augment the power of the clergy, increase the patronage of Government, and, by an unprecedented system of grants, gratuities, pensions, and places, dependent chiefly upon the favourable report of Government inspectors and parochial clergymen, reduce the educators of the people, and, through them, the people themselves, to a state of political subservience, and extinguish that spirit of freedom and independence to which, under God, we are indebted for the invaluable blessings of civil and religious liberty.

4. Because the Government scheme, blending religious with secular instruction, and requiring proficiency in both on the part of those teachers and pupils who partake of the emoluments of the State, does, in effect, enforce the spiritual as well as secular instruction of the youth of this country—institute a new religious establishment—and endow the most opposite creeds.

5. Because the contemplated interference of Government, though professedly designed to stimulate, will check Voluntary effort, and endanger the invaluable results already achieved by it.

6. Because long experience and observation justify the apprehension, that the ultimate effect of bringing the education of the country under State control will be to deteriorate its character, especially in a religious view; and to afford the opportunity, under the shadow of the Committee of Council, for a new set of abuses to grow up, which it will be exceedingly difficult to prevent or to eradicate.

7. Because, in the opinion of this Board, the way in which this important change is introduced, at the sole discretion of the Committee of Council, without Parliamentary discussion and enactment, is contrary to the spirit of the British constitution.

II. That a petition be drawn up on the basis of the foregoing Resolution, praying that the House of Commons will not make any grant of money towards carrying the Minutes of Council into effect, and that they will address the Crown to revoke the powers given to the Committee of Council on Education.

III. That brethren Hoby and Groser be a deputation from this Board to the Central Committee, to aid in opposing this measure.

IV. That these resolutions be advertised in the *Patriot* and Nonconformist newspapers.

## GOVERNMENT PLAN OF EDUCATION.

**AT a MEETING** of the PASTORS and DEACONS of the BAPTIST and INDEPENDENT CHURCHES of the town of BIRMINGHAM, convened to consider the proposed plan of National Education, held in the School-room of Ebenezer Chapel, Steelhouse-lane, on Tuesday evening, 9th March, 1847, The Rev. JAMES ROBERTS in the Chair,

the following resolutions were passed:—  
On the motion of the Rev. J. A. James, seconded by the Rev. Thomas Swan, resolved,—

I. That, as Protestant Dissenters, we fearlessly appeal to the records of our history for proof that our various bodies have ever been distinguished for zeal and liberality in the cause of popular education; and we feel that we should dishonour our principles and prove unworthy of our ancestors, if we did not still desire and labour to promote the cause by all suitable means, and to the widest possible extent.

On the motion of the Rev. George Cheatle, seconded by the Rev. John Jones:—

II. That, while we admit and confessedly deplore the destitution of general and religious education which still partially exists, we, at the same time, as cordially rejoice in the augmented and extraordinary efforts which have been lately been made, and chiefly by the operations of voluntary benevolence, to supply this deficiency—efforts which, in our own town, have been so successful as to make the supply more than equal to the demand for instruction, as is evident from the fact that few, if any, of the present daily schools, of any denomination, for children above the age of infancy, are full.

On the motion of Thomas Bellby, Esq., seconded by the Rev. J. M. Daniel:—

III. That, in objecting to the plan for national education introduced by her Majesty's Ministers, which we regret we are compelled to do, we disclaim all factious opposition to the Government—all sectarian prejudices, and all hostility or indifference to the mental and moral improvement of the people, by whomsoever such motives may be imputed to us; and we are satisfied that we find sufficient grounds for our conduct in the following views of the character and tendency of the proposed scheme, namely:—

By the very multitudinous stipendiary offices which it will create, all dependent in part upon State pay, it will increase the patronage of Government to an extent which cannot be viewed without jealousy by every enlightened friend of the constitution, and which will tend to supplant the love of freedom and self-reliance among the people of England, by a spirit of servility and dependence.

It will require a vast expenditure of public money, amounting perhaps, eventually, to little short of two millions annually, and, at the same time, will paralyze those voluntary efforts which have been of late so prodigiously augmented, and which, if left to operate, unimpeded by counteracting influences, would still increase, and thus it will take the system of education from that private benevolence which is now chiefly sustaining it, to lay it upon the public purse.

It will gradually draw the whole system of national education into the hands of the Government, by whom, in the long run, it will not perhaps be so efficiently conducted as upon the present method, in which the healthful rivalry of different bodies will stimulate to a continued progression of improvement. In process of time the whole will be likely to fall into the management of one or two stipendiary directors.

It will perpetuate a board which was originally condemned (viewed as a permanent system) by the Archbishop of Canterbury and a majority of the House of Lords, and recommended in the Commons by a majority of only two.

It will have a tendency, insidiously, to prepare the way for the support by the state of all religious opinions, inasmuch as it is a plan of religious instruction that is contemplated, it will be no very wide or difficult transition to be made from the schoolmaster to be preacher. And it should be observed that such a plan comes forth in an age and at a time, when popular Education is proceeding with unexampled strides.

On the motion of the Rev. John Hammond, seconded by J. Hopkins, Esq.:—

IV. That on the aforesaid grounds we recommend our congregations and Educational Institutions connected therewith, to avail themselves of their constitutional privilege, and to petition the legislature that the Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education in December 1846 be withdrawn.

On behalf of the meeting,  
(Signed) JAMES ROBERTS.

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## CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN OPPOSITION TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT SCHEME OF EDUCATION.

**A PUBLIC MEETING OF PROTESTANT DISSENTERS**, and of the Friends of Sunday-school instruction, will be held in **PINSBURY CHAPEL**, on **FRIDAY** Evening, **March 19**, to consider the probable effect of the proposed measure of Government Education on the interests of Protestant Dissenters and their Educational Institutions.

The Chair will be taken by **THOMAS THOMPSON, Esq.**, at Half-past Six o'Clock precisely.

By order of the Committee,  
F. A. COX, } Secretaries.  
R. AINSLIE, }  
J. M. HARE, }

King's Head, Poultry, March 12, 1847.

The Committee sits daily at Eleven o'Clock A.M., and daily attendance is given in the Committee-room from Ten till Four o'Clock P.M.

\* It is particularly requested that all Post-office orders for the use of the Committee may, for the present, be made payable to John Middleton Hare, at the King's Head, Poultry, London.

**THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE** formed to **OPPOSE** the **GOVERNMENT SCHEME OF EDUCATION**, earnestly solicit the immediate aid of those friends who feel interested in their movements, so important to the great interests of civil liberty and of spiritual religion. They thankfully acknowledge the subscriptions already received; and, as their expenses are necessarily heavy, they hope to receive further remittances without delay.

Thomas Thompson, Esq. ....	£10 10 0	Eusebius Smith, Esq. ....	2 0 0
Joseph Sturge, Esq. ....	10 0 0	Joseph Crane, Esq. ....	2 0 0
Samuel Morley, Esq. ....	10 0 0	Thos. Wontner, Esq. ....	2 0 0
Thos. Spalding, Esq. ....	10 0 0	Mr. D. Pratt, Esq. ....	1 1 0
James Carter, Esq. ....	10 0 0	Mr. G. Simmonds, Esq. ....	1 0 0
W. A. Hankey, Esq. ....	10 0 0	Mr. Dixon, Esq. ....	1 0 0
Thos. Fawcett, Esq. ....	5 0 0	Colonel Jenner, Esq. ....	1 0 0
John Snow, Esq. ....	2 0 0	Thomas Russell, Esq. ....	1 0 0
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Subscriptions may be paid to the account of the Finance Committee with Messrs. Hankey, Fenchurch-street; or to J. M. Hare, Committee-room, King's Head, Poultry, to whom it is particularly requested that all Post-office orders may be addressed.

## CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN OPPOSITION TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT SCHEME OF EDUCATION.

**A PUBLIC MEETING**, in Opposition to the **GOVERNMENT EDUCATION SCHEME**, held on Thursday Evening last, at the Hall of Commerce,

**DAVID WILLIAMS WIRE, Esq.**, in the Chair,

the following Resolutions were adopted:—

Moved by the Rev. J. H. Hinton, A.M.; seconded by Josiah Conder, Esq., and carried:—

1. That this meeting, deeply concerned for the welfare of the working classes, and especially for the sound instruction of the young, have with impartial attention examined the Minutes of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education of August and December, 1846; and feel themselves constrained earnestly to deprecate the adoption of the measures therein described, as emanating from an authority not warranted by the constitution, as proceeding upon a fallacious and exaggerated view of the educational necessities of the country, as adverse to civil and religious liberty, as calculated injuriously to increase the power, influence, and wealth of the Established Church, as imposing new grievances and disabilities upon Dissenters, as involving a vast outlay of money, and as extending the sphere of Government patronage in a manner highly detrimental to the public interests.

Moved by the Rev. Dr. Cox; seconded by the Rev. B. Woodyard, and carried:—

2. That this attempt to carry into effect so extensive a measure, by virtue of the royal prerogative and without the intervention of the Legislature, considered in connexion with the character of the measure itself and with the liberal professions of the Administration from which it emanates, has a strong tendency to confirm the prevailing opinion, that the education of the people is a matter in which the Government can neither rightfully nor usefully interfere.

3. That, therefore, this meeting hail with satisfaction the manifest tokens of a general opposition to this unconstitutional and dangerous measure, rejoice in the formation of the Central Committee appointed to aid in its defeat, and pledge themselves to promote that object by every means in their power; and that, for this end, the foregoing Resolutions be embodied in the form of a petition to the House of Commons, praying that honourable House, by express vote, to withhold its sanction from the said Minutes, and to address the Crown, beseeching her Majesty to revoke the Order in Council in virtue of which the Committee of Council on Education has assumed so unconstitutional an authority.

Moved by Nathaniel Griffin, Esq.; seconded by Mr. Edwards, and carried unanimously:—

4. That the cordial thanks of this meeting be presented to David Williams Wire, Esq., for his able and judicious conduct in the chair.

By order of the Committee,  
F. A. COX, } Secretaries.  
R. AINSLIE, }  
J. M. HARE, }

King's Head, Poultry, March 12, 1847.

## GOVERNMENT SCHEME OF EDUCATION.

**A MEETING OF THE BAPTIST MINISTERS** of **LANCASHIRE**, held at the Chapel in Grosvenor-street, Chorlton, Manchester:—

On the motion of the Rev. D. Rhys Stephen, seconded by the Rev. R. Morris, it was unanimously resolved:—

That this meeting views with great alarm the scheme of education announced by Lord Lansdowne, and based on the Minutes of the Council of Education, as unconstitutional in its character, detrimental to the interests of religious liberty, and calculated to destroy while it cruelly disregards existing and rapidly increasing voluntary educational institutions.

On the motion of the Rev. C. Kirkland, of Salden, and seconded by the Rev. A. Nicholls, of Goodshaw, it was resolved:—

That this meeting recommends to the Baptist Churches of Lancashire immediate, vigorous, and uncompromising opposition to this insidious measure.

W. F. BURCHELL, Chairman.

## TO SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEACHERS.

**AN APPEAL AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT SCHEME OF EDUCATION.** By JOHN CURWEN, Plaistow, Essex. A Handbill for general distribution at Public Meetings and in Sunday-schools. Price 3d. per dozen, or 3s. per 100. Sent by post from the above address, and published by WARD and Co., London.

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London: JOHN SNOW. Norwich: Jarrold and Sons; and J. Fletcher.

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London: JOHN SNOW, Paternoster-row.

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2. Because, were the emergency in this respect as great as it has been represented to be, it is not the province of Government to educate the people.

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6. Because long experience and observation justify the apprehension, that the ultimate effect of bringing the education of the country under State control will be to deteriorate its character, especially in a religious view; and to afford the opportunity, under the shadow of the Committee of Council, to a new set of abuses to grow up, which it will be exceedingly difficult to prevent or to eradicate.

7. Because, in the opinion of this Board, the way in which this important change is introduced, at the sole discretion of the Committee of Council, without Parliamentary discussion and enactment, is contrary to the spirit of the British Constitution.

II. That a petition be drawn up on the basis of the foregoing resolution, praying that the House of Commons will not make any grant of money towards carrying the Minutes of Council into effect, and that they will address the Crown to revoke the powers given to the Committee of Council on Education.

III. That brethren Hoby and Grosier be a deputation from this Board to the Central Committee, to aid in opposing the measure.

IV. That these resolutions be advertised in the *Patriot* and *Nonconformist* newspapers.

(Signed) F. A. COX, D.D., LL.D., Chairman.  
W. GROSER, Secretary.

March 9th, 1847.

## GOVERNMENT SCHEME OF EDUCATION.

**A MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF VARIOUS EVANGELICAL DISSENTERS**, opposed to all Government interference with the Education of the People, held at Great George-street Chapel, Liverpool, on Thursday evening, March 11th, 1847, the Rev. Dr. RAFFLES in the chair,

It was moved by the Rev. W. Bevan; and seconded by the Rev. Mr. Lancaster:—

That this meeting, avowing their deep interest in the education of the people—regarding it as a subject of vital importance to the well-being of the country—rejoice in the efforts which have been made by various classes of the community to increase the school accommodation, and to improve the quality of the instruction imparted; and are justified, by what has been accomplished, in expressing their strong conviction, that the voluntary exertions of the friends of education are fully adequate to supply all that is requisite to place the means of sound instruction within the reach of all classes of the people.

It was moved by the Rev. John Kelly, and seconded by W. Crossfield, Esq.:—

That, entertaining these views, this meeting regard the interference of the Government with the education of the people as not only altogether unnecessary, but wrong in principle, at variance with sound policy, injurious to parental responsibility, and calculated, especially in the existing state of parties, to produce serious evils, detrimental to the very object which such interference is designed to promote, and, therefore, cannot but consider the steps which have been already taken by the Legislature in this direction rather as an error to be corrected, than as a benefit to be perpetuated and extended.

It was moved by T. Blackburn, Esq., and seconded by the Rev. James Ward:—

That, in the judgment of this Meeting, these views receive strong confirmation from the recent proposals of the Government, as disclosed in the Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education, presented to both Houses of Parliament on the 5th of February last; that the examination of this scheme has occasioned them deep regret and serious apprehension, since it is evidently the commencement of a system admitting of indefinite extension, which must add largely to the influence of Government, and entail an enormous expense on the country, while in its progress it cannot fail to destroy, by the most insidious means, the numerous existing educational institutions, the fruit of voluntary zeal and sacrifice, and which have conferred innumerable benefits on the community.

It was moved by the Rev. Mr. Loxton, and seconded by the Rev. Mr. Hacking:—

That a special ground of objection, entertained by this meeting, to the scheme in question, arises from its religious bearings; that religious instruction being recognized as an essential part of the education to be patronized, while all kinds of opinion on this subject, the true and the false, are treated alike; yet, it being known that several influential classes of professing Christians cannot, on conscientious grounds, receive the public money for such a purpose, the practical effect of the scheme must be to augment the influence, and add largely to the power of the Established Church, by the creation of a new educational establishment under the exclusive control of the clergy, and in which the teaching of the Liturgy and Catechism of the Church of England, with all their errors, is enforced by law, and to the maintenance of which all classes of Dissenters will be compelled to contribute, thus adding a fresh and gross act of injustice to those of which they have so much reason to complain.

It was moved by Charles Robertson, Esq., and seconded by D. Rowland, Esq.:—

That the mode in which it is proposed to carry into effect a system so new in character, and so extensive in operation, appears to this meeting to be one of its most alarming features. That the introduction of a change such as it must inevitably produce, simply by orders in Council, is a serious departure from the principles and practice of the constitution, and supercedes those legislative checks which the forms of Parliament are intended to supply against the encroachments of the executive, and that the only effectual remedy against a repetition of a similar assumption of power is to be found in the dissolution of the Committee of Council on Education.

It was moved by the Rev. Mr. Ridley, and seconded by Samuel Stitt, Esq.:—

That this meeting urge the friends of a free and scriptural education to offer, by all constitutional means, the most determined opposition to this insidious and dangerous proposal; that these resolutions be published in the newspapers, and that the following gentlemen be appointed a committee to give practical effect to these resolutions.—[Here follows a list of names.]

## LORD LANSDOWNE'S EDUCATIONAL MEASURE.

**A MEETING OF THE CONSTITUENTS** of the **ESSEX COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION**, held at Braintree, on Thursday, March 11, 1847,

**JOHN CHAPLIN, Esq.**, in the Chair,

the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

Moved by S. Legerton, Esq.; seconded by J. Ely, Esq.:—

I. That this meeting is fully convinced that a sound and scriptural education is the greatest boon which can be provided for the rising population of this country; that the body whom it represents has ever been ready to assist in any movement, having for its aim the extension of such a privilege; that there has been raised under the auspices of that body, for the purposes of a liberal religious and secular education, in this county alone, a sum exceeding £10,000, even since the last attempt to inflict a Government measure upon the people of this country in 1843, besides the outlay required for the sustenance of day and infant schools, previously established at considerable cost, and which provide accommodation for at least 5,000 children, and also in addition to the further expense of maintaining Sunday-schools, that average an actual attendance of 10,000; and that this meeting firmly believes there never was a period when Government interference was less called for, or the willingness and ability of the people to educate themselves was more generally or more conclusively proved.

Moved by the Rev. R. Robinson; seconded by E. Craig, Esq.:—

II. That this meeting having had its attention seriously directed to the measure announced by the Marquis of Lansdowne, to the House of Lords, on Friday, the 5th of February last, and which has developed in the Minutes of Council on Education, in August and December, 1846, cannot but regard its proposals with alarm, as tending not only to inflict a fatal injury on the cause which they propose to benefit, but also ultimately to undermine both the civil and religious liberties of the people of this country.

Moved by W. C. Wells, Esq.; seconded by the Rev. Thomas Craig:—

III. That this meeting entirely concurs in the opinion expressed by the present Archbishop of Canterbury, in a resolution submitted by his Grace to the House of Lords, on the 5th of July, 1839, and which was adopted in that House by a majority of 111, and also by the present Lord Stanley in an amendment submitted by his lordship to the House of Commons on the 14th of June, in the same year, with regard to the body with whom this measure has originated, viz.—“That the powers entrusted to the Committee of Council are so important in their bearing upon the moral and religious education of the people of this country, . . . and at the same time so capable of progressive and indefinite extension, that they ought not to be committed to any public authority without the consent of Parliament.” And that this meeting further expresses its extreme surprise and regret that a measure so comprehensive, emanating from such a body, should have been announced by any member of the present Administration, in a form so utterly unconstitutional as that it precludes all possibility of discussion on the part of the representatives of the people.

Moved by C. Tabor, Esq.; seconded by the Rev. S. Steer:—

IV. That this meeting regards with the greatest alarm, particularly, the following features in the proposed plan:—

1. The almost totally irresponsible, and at the same time wholly unprecedented power, which it secures to a body that the British constitution does not recognize, and that the British Legislature cannot directly control.

2. The enormous and utterly uncalculated-for expense which its execution must involve, especially at a period when the people are already struggling with a burden of taxation almost intolerable, and with the painful prospect before them of having their existing burdens otherwise greatly increased.

3. The fearful extent to which it proposes to increase the patronage of the Crown and the influence of the Established Church, the latter being already far too powerful for the civil and religious welfare of the country.

4. The certainty of its execution involving the erection of a new religious establishment.

5. The ruinous principle which it proposes to recognize, for the first time in the history of British legislation, namely, that of the right and obligation of the State equally to provide for the teaching of all religious tenets—a principle which has never yet been recognized by any country, either in relation to the child or the adult, without involving consequences fraught with infidelity, despotism, and every moral and social ill.

6. The almost irresistible tendency which the plan must have to undermine the independent and self-respecting character of the British people, which has hitherto proved the safeguard of their prosperity and the palladium of their rights, by prostrating our entire population either before the Government of the day or the Established Church.

7. The final recognition which its adoption will secure of the principle of State interference with the education of the people—a principle which this meeting regards as second in enormous error only to the principle of a State Church.

Moved by Wm. Ridley, Esq.; seconded by J. Perry, Esq.:—

V. That this meeting, for the reasons previously assigned, respectfully but earnestly denounces the measure now proposed as one of the most subtly conceived, but at the same time dangerous attacks, ever contemplated on the best interests of the people of this country.

Moved by W. Johns, Esq.; seconded by R. W. Dixon, Esq.:—

VI. That this meeting therefore pledges itself to oppose the measure by every means which the British constitution has placed within their reach, and earnestly recommends to those whom it represents the adoption of the following plans:—

1. The preparation and signature of petitions from their respective congregations, the teachers and supporters of their Sunday-schools, and the managers, teachers, and supporters of their day and infant-schools.

2. The appointment of deputations to wait upon such of the Essex borough and county members as they are more directly connected with, in order to solicit their interference to prevent the infliction of this enormous wrong.

3. The holding of public meetings, if possible, in all their places of worship, for the purpose of enlightening and arousing the public mind.

4. The purchase and distribution of the following publications:—Mr. Baines's Letter to Lord Lansdowne, 10s. 6d. per 100; Mr. Baines's Alarm to the British People, 10s. 6d. per 100; and his admirable Letters to Lord John Russell on National Education, now reduced from 2s. 6d. to 1s. each; Dr. Massie's Letter to Lord Lansdowne, or Mr. J. M. Hare's able Analysis of the Government Scheme, 1s. each; or a reprint of the admirable paper, recently issued by the "Central Committee," on the subject of the measure and the means which are available for opposing it.

Moved by the Rev. S. Causby; seconded by Jos. Lake, Esq.:—

VII. That the foregoing Resolutions be embodied in a petition, be signed by the Chairman on behalf of the meeting, and presented to the House of Lords by Lord Rayleigh, and to the House of Commons by Charles Grey Round, Esq.

Moved by Jos. Dixon, Esq.; seconded by the Rev. R. Robinson:—

VIII. That the following gentlemen form a deputation to wait upon Lord John Russell, to urge upon his lordship's attention the objection of the Nonconformists of Essex to the proposed education plan:—The Chairman; William Ridley, Esq.; W. C. Wells, Esq.; Rev. Thomas Craig; Rev. T. W. Davids; C. Tabor, Esq.; and J. A. Tabor, Esq.

Moved by W. C. Wells, Esq.; seconded by William Ridley, Esq.:—

IX. That the foregoing Resolutions be advertised in the *Times*, the *Morning Chronicle*, the *Patriot*, the *Nonconformist*, the *Essex and Suffolk Mercury*, and the *Chelmsford Chronicle*.

Moved by the Rev. Thomas Craig; seconded by the Rev. S. Steer:—

X. That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Chairman for presiding on the present occasion.

Printed by JOHN HASLER, of No. 3, York-place, Albion-road, Stoke Newington, in the county of Middlesex, at No. 4, Crane-court, Fleet-street, in the parish of St. Dunstan in the West, in the city of London; and published by EDWARD MIALL, of No. 1, Belgrave-place, Tufnell-park, Holloway, in the county of Middlesex, at the office, No. 3, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street, in the parish of St. Dunstan in the West, in the city of London.—WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1847.